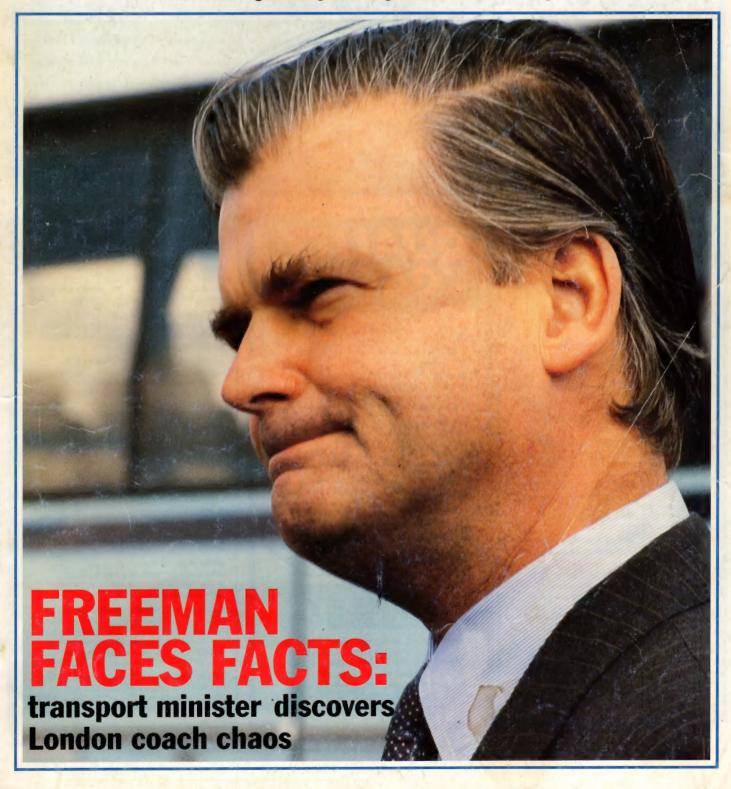
Issue 605 £1 September 13 1990

The leading weekly serving the coach industry



Carlton P.S.V.

STOP PRESSOur fourth refurbished Skyliner is now ready! Re-painted white, in National Express Rapide livery, re-moquetted, re-trimmed, carpets, fully serviced, 71 seats plus rear hostess seat. Additional servery & cool box. Acceptable for Rapide work for a further 5 years. Cherished plates, Mercedes manual. £83,000. Stock No.9021. Further examples available shortly.

NEOPLAN

1988 Neoplan, 77 seats, Gardner engine, ZF Automatic, radio/PA/cassette, TV/video monitor, VHS recorder, toilet, fridge, drinks. Stock No. 0021

1983/4 Neoplan Skyliner, 71-75 seats, Mercs V10 engine, 6 speed ZF gearbox, toilet, fridge, radio/PA, drinks machine. Stock Nos. 9017 to 9023

1982 SKYLINER (with cherished plates), Well preserved and maintained, very recently remoquetted (blue) and resprayed (white), 71 recliners, Mercedes V10, 6-speed ZF gearbox, toilet, fridge, drinks machine etc. This vehicle has been in regular daily use — a very clean example. Stock No. 0004.

MCW

1984 Cummins L10 4-speed full autor gearbox, Voith retarder, servery, Frenzel boiler, 71 recliners plus consolider, N/S front door, N/S centre door, orange curtains, MoT Feb '91. St. 0.0020. Only one left.

VOLVO

1984 Volvo B10M Berkhof Esprite, 53 seater, power door, Webasto, curtains, carpets, radio/PA/cassette, MoT 27.11.90. Stock No.0016.

1983 VOLVO B10M Jonckheere P599, 49 recliners, Telma, coffee machine, MoT Nov 1990.

1980 VOLVO B58 Air/Leaf Dominant, 12 metre, 53 seats, 48 recliners, 5 fixed, automatic gearbox, power door, tinted windows, curtains, side lockers, MoT Dec 1990. Stock No. 0012

1980 VOLVO B58 11 metre, 51 seats, Alpha power door, Telma, white livery, red moquette and MoT Nov 90. Stock No. 0014.

1979 VOLVO B58 12 metre, 57 seats (re-moquetted), Alpha power door, side lockers, livery white and MoT Feb 90. Stock No. 0015.

MAN

1982 SR 280, 47 recliners, Sutrak air conditioning, 6 speed gearbox, o/s centre power door, o/s centre sunken toilet, driver's bunk, fridge, drinks machine, tinted double glazed windows, Rollo blinds, courier seat, Webasto and timer, seat back nets, headrest covers, wheel discs, driver's locker. Stock No. 0008

SCANIA

1986 Scania Berkhof Eclipse double deck, 76 seats, toilet, double glazed windows, Telma, coffee machine, livery maroon/white. MoT April 1991.

BEDFORD

1981 Bedford YNT 53 seater Plaxton, side lockers, autumn tint moquette, livery white blue/yellow stripes. Reconditioned engine, new MoT Sept 1991. Stock No. M9014.

1980 Bedford PJK, 29 seater, Duple Dom, red, moq, livery white. Stock No. 0007. 1979 Bedford YMT, 53 seater Plaxton, red/cream ext, red moq. Stock No. M9036.

LEYLAND

1982 Leyland Leopard 12 metre Dominant, 51 reclining seats, double glazed, Telma, radio/PA, Bristol dome. MoT Feb 1991. Stock No. 9033.

1982 Leyland Leopard 12 metre Plaxton, 49 seats, semi auto gearbox, toilet, coffee machine, side lockers, new MoT 16.08.91.

1981 Leyland Leopard Duple Dominant, 53 seats, red moquette, livery white, new MoT 23.08.91. Stock No. M9012.

1981 Leyland 11 metre Plaxton, 53 (remoquetted), X'Press, side lockers, grey/red moquette, new MoT 29.08.91. Stock No. 9013.

1981 Leyland 12 metre Plaxton, 49 recliners, cream exterior, Autumn tint moquette, new MoT 29.09.91. Stock No. 9010.

CARLTON PSV SALES, SANDBECK WAY, EUROWAY ESTATE, HELLABY, ROTHERHAM, SOUTH YORKS S66 8HR

0709 700600

Emergency parts and service paging system evenings and weekends. Dial 0345 333111 to obtain paging bureau then quote: 0525547 for service or 0502448 for parts and leave your name and number. Fax 0709 700007.

DAF 1984 SB2300 DHS JONCKHEERE JUBILEE P50 12M, 49 recliners, red/grey moquette, toilet at o/s rear, continental door, berth, tinted glass, power door, wired for T.V.

+ video, twin fuel tanks, cream/orange.

DAF 1983 (AUGUST) SB2300 DHS
JONCKHEERE JUBILEE P599 12M, 51

recliners, centre sunken toilet, Webasto heating, fridge, coffee machine, carpet, curtains, TV.+video wiring, grey/blue moquette trim, white.

DAF 1983 DKFL VAN HOOL ALIZEE-H 12M, 48 recliners, Autumn tint moquette, rear floor mounted toilet, continental entrance door, white/grey/red.

DAF 1983 DKFL PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3200 12M, 51 recliners, autumn tint moquette, power door, double glazing, curtains, courier seat, continental door, Webasto, Telma retarder, white/green/black.

DAF 1982 (AUGUST) DKTL PLAXTON SUPREME VI 12M 53 'E' type seats, paramount front, double glazing, red/white/blue.

VOLVO 1986 B10M PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3500 12M, 49 recliners, sunken toilet o/s rear, courier seat, curtains, fridge, water boiler, tinted side windows, beige/blue moquette, white+yellow/orange stripes.

VOLVO 1986 B9M PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3200, 45 str., brown moquette, power entrance door, all white.

VOLVO 1984 (AUGUST) B10M PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3500 12M, 49 recliners, beige/red moquette, rear sunken toilet with continental door, driver's berth, courier seat, Webasto heating, TELMA retarder, drinks machine, curtains, tinted double glazing, power entrance door, wired/boxed for T.V./video, silver/blue.

VOLVO 1982 B58 DUPLE DOMINANT IV 12M, 53 recliners, brown moquette, tinted double glazed side windows, curtains, TELMA

double glazed side windows, curtains, TELM retarder, air/leaf suspension, automatic chassis lubrication system, cream+brown/grey reliefs.

QUALITY COACHES

VOLVO 1981 B58 PLAXTON SUPREME 12M,

49 recliners, brown moquette, toilet at nearside rear, power entrance door, tinted side windows, curtains, white.

VOLVO 1980 B58 PLAXTON SUPREME EXPRESS 11M, 53 str., autumn tint moquette, power entrance doors, curtains, white/orange/blue.

VOLVO 1979 (LATE) B58 PLAXTON SUPREME 12M, air/leaf suspension, automatic gearbox, TELMA retarder, 51 recliners, autumn tint moquette, power entrance door, side lockers, all white.

FORD 1984 R1115 DUPLE DOMINANT IV, 53

str., power operated entrance door, tinted side windows, curtains, side lockers, autumn tint moquette, white.

FORD 1983 R1114 PLAXTON PARAMOUNT

3200, 49 E-type seats, brown moquette, TELMA retarder, side locker, white+yellow/ orange reliefs.



Moseley Group of Companies, Derby Road, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 0AH. Telex: 341327 Telefax: (0509) 610814 SCOTLAND (0236) 22445

HEAD OFFICE (0509) 213232

BEDFORD 1986 YNV DUPLE 320 12M, 57 str., power door, grey/yellow moquette, tinted

glass, cream/red.

BEDFORD 1985 (DECEMBER) YNV PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3200 12M, 55 recliners, grey/red moquette, power entrance door, curtains, side lockers, white/red.

LEYLAND 1987 TIGER 260 DUPLE 320

12M, 50 recliners, grey moquette, power door, courier seat, toilet, servery, suspension raise system. white.

LEYLAND 1985 TIGER 245 PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3500 12M, 51 str., autumn tint moquette (46 recliners + 5 fixed at rear), power operated entrance door, TELMA retarder, courier seat, curtains, continental door, provision for driver's berth, all white.

LEYLAND 1984 TIGER 245 PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3500 12M, 50 recliners, courier, power entrance door, double glazing, brown stripe moquette, all white. CHOICE OF THREE.

LEYLAND 1982 (AUGUST) TIGER 245
PLAXTON VIEWMASTER 12M, 49 recliners, red/orange moquette, courier seat, power entrance door, tinted side windows, curtains, o/s/r sunken toilet, continental door, water boiler, fridge, wiring for T.V. + video, grey/duo green.

BOVA 1985 FUTURA FHD 12.280 Integral 12M, 49/53 recliners, red/grey moquette, centre sunken demountable toilet, wired for TV./video, white + red reliefs.

BOVA 1984 EUROPA III Integral 12M, 49 str., beige/fawn/orange stripe moquette, centre sunken o/s toilet, continental door, wired for two T.V. monitors+video, drinks machine, Webasto heating, courier seat, carpets, power door, all white.

BOVA 1982 EUROPA II Integral 12M, 53 str., red moquette (48 recliners+5 fixed at rear), power entrance door, courier seat, curtains, continental door, white/grey/yellow.

- News: Liquidators appointed at GB Hirst (Coaches); Plaxton makes redundancies and will also hold a summer sale; Maidstone Council's Boro'line suffers big losses; Welsh operator to take High Court action over licence revocation.
- On Target: Marksman believes the key to success is the three 'As': attitude, ambition and association.
- Fleet Update: London Buses takes delivery of four Mercedes 709D midibuses; Prindale Coaches gets ready for the summer season by buying a 49 seater Volvo; Viscount Bus & Coach Co Ltd collects three Leyland Olympian buses.



National Express subsidiary still in bus

- see page 9

Letters: Readers give their reaction to Coachmart's look at the safety of children on long distance express coach journeys; the police

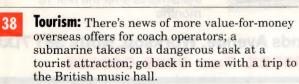
are criticised over 'hard shoulder' MOTs; a rally organiser wants his trophies back.

21 Diary: Transport Secretary Cecil Parkinson reckons he's on the right road over a new traffic navigation system; a 1903 bus makes news across the Atlantic.



Government minister Roger Freeman is having talks on London parking problems— see page 25

- Westminster resident welcomes a coach street ban and asks who wants tourists?
- London Parking: Government minister Roger Freeman has been touring London's traffic black-spots. Mark Williams went too.
- Road Test: Rod Davey reports on the LAG Eos, the Panoramic replacement which represents a new dawn for the company.
- Licensing & Legal: A Dalkeith company is warned over its maintenance record; the annual test on a vehicle owned by Llansilin Motor Services is stopped because of its poor condition.





The EOS: is LAG on the right track? -

see page 29

COMMEN¹

N case you were in any doubt, two events this week really put the current state of the UK's new and used bus and coach market into perspective.

Firstly, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders released registration statistics which showed new PSV sales last month, at just 205 units, were over 26 percent down on August 1989's total.

Sales for the first eight months of this year now stand at 2.095 - some 8.5 percent down on the same period in 1989.

Now 1989 was hardly a boom year. Manufacturers and dealers were encouraged by 3,034 registrations during the 12 months, but mainly because that was the first time sales had broken the 3,000 barrier since the heady days of 1984.

Secondly Plaxton, Britain's biggest coach builder, announced it was to hold its first ever sale of used vehicles.

In an effort to shift some metal from its increasingly crowded dealers' yards, Plaxton is discounting 15-20 percent off the list price of a range of secondhand vehicles.

Punters and pundits alike have laid the blame for the dramatic softening of the PSV market firmly on high interest rates. But operators who have been holding back from buying new or used vehicles during recent months because of the high cost of borrowing, should take care. Those vehicles that seem expensive now could be unaffordable next year.

The message being put out loud and clear by dealers is buy now, save later. And their argument is well worth listening to. It runs like this:

With interest rates hovering around 15 percent, the cost of new coaches may seem dear now, but because so few are being sold, prices will leap up next year.

It is false economy for operators to hold out against buying and wait for interest rates to come down. Because, by the time rates do come down, prices will have gone up so much any saving will be wiped out.

According to the dealers, the argument holds good for both new and used vehicles. One dealer said last week that, far from being dear, current vehicle prices were 'at rock bottom and would never be so low again.'

Well, dealers would say that wouldn't they? Yes, they would and are.

But the real question is, can operators afford not to listen to them? Only you know the answer to that.

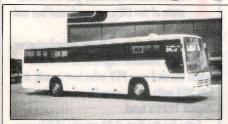
STUART JOHNSON



SCANIA

BUS AND COACH DISTRIBUTOR

DEALS THAT WORK FOR YOU!



DEPOSIT £20,000

18 MONTHS x £795

42 MONTHS x £1,395

BALLOON £20.000

1989 F

DAF SB2300 DUPLE
320 SL ZF GEARBOX,
TINTED GLASS,
POWER DOOR, 57
RECLINING SEATS,
RADIO/P.A./
CASSETTE, ALL WHITE
EXTERIOR WITH
BROWN STRIPE
MOQUETTE INTERIOR,
M.O.T. 31.5.91.
CHOICE OF TWO.



 DEPOSIT
 £20,000

 12 MONTHS x
 £999

 48 MONTHS x
 £1,699

 BALLOON
 £15,000

VOLVO B10M
PLAXTON 3500 4 STAR
53/49 RECLINING
SEATS, PLUS
COURIER, DOUBLE
GLAZED SIDE
WINDOW, FULL DRAW
CURTAINS,
DEMOUNTABLE
CENTRE TOILET,
AIRCRAFT TYPE RACK
DOORS, WEBASTO
HEATER, RADIO/PA/
CASSETTE, TV, VIDEO,
WATER BOILER, ALL
WHITE EXTERIOR WITH
GREY CHEVRON
MOQUETTE INTERIOR,
M.O.T. 16.5.91



DEPOSIT £20,000

18 MONTHS x £999

42 MONTHS x £1,750

BALLOON £19,250

1988 E

DAF MB230 PLAXTON 3500, 49 RECLINING SEATS, PLUS COURIER SEAT, REAR SUNKEN TOILET, CONTINENTAL DOOR, DRIVER'S BUNK, WATER BOILER, WEBASTO HEATER, TELMA, ABS, RADIO/PA/CASSETTE, FINISHED IN ALL WHITE WITH GREY CHEVRON MOQUETTE INTERIOR. M.O.T. MAY 1991.

CHOICE OF TWO.

DEPOSIT 12 MONTHS x 36 MONTHS x

BALLOON

x £1,182 NIL

£15,000

£750



LEYLAND TIGER 245/260 DUPLE, HIGH FLOOR COACHES, FULLY REFURBISHED BY S.J. LTD., FITTED 48/50 RECLINING SEATS PLUS COURIER SEAT, RETRIMMED IN GREY CHEVRON MOQUETTE, TINTED GLASS, CURTAINS, RADIO/PA/CASSETTE, FINISHED IN WHITE, M.O.T. JUNE 1991. CHOICE OF FOUR.



DEPOSIT £30,000

18 MONTHS x £1,500

42 MONTHS x £1,979

BALLOON £40,000

1988 E

DAF SB 3000 PLAXTON 4000 DOUBLE DECK COACH, ZF 7 SPEED GEARBOX, 74 RECLINING SEATS PLUS COURIER SEAT, TINTED GLASS, CURTAINS, DRIVERS BUNK, TOILET, WATER BOILER, ALL WHITE EXTERIOR WITH GREY CHEVRON MOQUETTE INTERIOR, M.O.T. MAY 1991.



DEPOSIT £20,000

12 MONTHS x £1,100

48 MONTHS x £1,599

BALLOON £15,000

1989 F

DAF SB2305 AND MB
230LB CHASSIS
CAETANO ALGARVE
BODY FITTED, 53
RECLINING SEATS
PLUS COURIER SEAT,
REAR CONTINENTAL
DOOR, TINTED GLASS
WITH FULL DRAW
CURTAINS, GREY OR
BROWN MOQUETTE
INTERIOR.
CHOICE OF FOUR.

THIS DEAL IS:-

- ★ Heavily subsidised by Stuart Johnson Limited
- ★ Very flexible and can be modified to suit any value of part exchange vehicle
- ★ Subject to status and subject to vehicles remaining available

DON'T FORGETYOU REMAIN THE
OWNER OF THE
VEHICLE

THIS DEAL IS

- ★ An 'operating lease' which leaves you with no equity in the vehicle at the end of the lease period
- A 'low start' package with inflated instalments after the first 18 months

Stuart Johnson Ltd., Bus and Coach Centre, Claylands Avenue, Worksop, Notts S81 7DJ Ring Tony Clayton NOW. Tel: 0909 500822. Fax: 0909 500165

■COACH

Bid to improve police relations

LONDON operators have asked the Police to consider putting officers on a coach as part of their training.

The scheme is the brainchild of the London Tourist Coach Operators' Association, which is worried at the allegedly aggressive attitude of some policemen to its members.

Members of the LTCOA claimed officers had used foul language and were abusive because they do not understand the problems of operating coaches within London.

'There is positive discrimination against coaches and coach drivers,' said one member. 'Delivery vehicles, the electricity board and water board are given substantial time to make deliveries and even cone-off sections of road on the grounds that they are doing their job.

'The police have to know that we are doing our job, and that to do it we require a degree of tolerance.'

A police spokesman said the proposal for officers to spend a day seeing coach problems first-hand was being considered.

TAKEOVER

National Welsh sale mystery

BELEAGURED National Welsh is remaining tight-lipped over trade press stories of an imminent sale.

Managing director Brian Noton had no comment to make when contacted last week, but directed calls to financial advisors 3i in London.

A 3i spokesperson said the company had been taking its advice for some time, and that restructuring was taking place at the Cardiffbased ex-NBC firm. No finance for NE was being provided by 3i. **LIQUIDATION**

Liquidator appointed at GB Hirst (Coaches)

THE LIQUIDATION of G B Hirst (Coaches) of Holmfirth, Yorkshire, is to be handled by Martin Venning of Finnie and Co, Sheffield.

Mr Venning was appointed last week by the official receiver following months of speculation about the future of the companywound up in April by creditors.

The managing director, Brian Hirst, refused to comment on the position of his coach company and on four other companies in which he has an interest. These are Inter Transport UK Ltd, G B Hirst International, G B Hirst Fuel, and Aminta, which handles maintenance.

Brian Hirst was



GB Hirst (Coaches): had been heavily committed to continental touring.

heavily committed to continental touring, having taken 18 new Mercedes 0303 coaches, at least ten of which were air-conditioned. The leased vehicles - which Mr Hirst originally hoped would have a seven-year operating life - have now gone from the G B

Hirst coach fleet, which now amounts to four vehicles, according to Brian Hirst.

When the vehicles were acquired in late 1987, Brian Hirst commented in Coachmart that he'd seen a lot of operators get very big and talk a lot of nonsense, only to

'come a cropper.'

'The Mercedes coaches have all gone,' Brian Hirst told Coachmart last week. 'The situation is too long and complicated to explain on the 'phone.'

Industry sources suggest that at least seven of the vehicles were reposessed around Christmas of this year by lease company Evans Halshaw, and the rest by financiers Equity and General.

Mr Hirst said he now has a mixed fleet of four vehicles including a DAF, with which he is operating charter runs.

The appointment of the liquidator follows a meeting of creditors in July, and was at the instruction of receiver Paul Baxter.

FUEL PRICES

Operators told to pass on fuel price rises

OPERATORS are heading for a cash crisis if they don't pass on higher fuel prices to passengers, says the director general of the Bus and Coach Council.

Veronica Palmer said that six weeks of price increases due to the Gulf situation have left no room for manoeuvre: companies were reluctant to increase fares, but could no longer absorb the increased prices of diesel... and are now being confronted with price increases on other essential supplies because of the knock-on effect.

'We believe the industry has done a good job for passengers by holding out for so long,' she said.

Chesterfield Transport was among the first major bus operators to add fuel surcharges to fares,



DG Veronica Palmer: passengers must pay.

using a 2p flat rate increase. It said the increases did not recoup all of the extra cost.

At East Midlands
Motor Services,
managing director
George Watson said he
hoped loadings would
increase as a result of
high fuel costs: "This has
also affected car travel,
and this may cause
people to travel by
public transport."

Mr Watson said he had no plans for a 'crisis' fares increase, though increases planned for October may be affected by the rising fuel costs. But many coach operators are holding fire until the prices

stabilise: 'We've got to sit on the fence ... much as that is hurting us,' said Steve Telling, managing director at Tellings in Surrey.

'We've got to ask ourselves "where will it end." and avoid panic until the last moment. I appreciate what the associations have to say, but we are running up to the worst possible time of the year.'

And at Bakers

Dolphin, the printing of brochures for 1991 season are likely to dictate if and when any holiday prices rise: 'It's our policy to avoid surcharges, but we must be mindful of what the air tour firms such as Thompsons are doing,' said operations director Michael Warnock-Smith.

'Inevitably, we will be passing on the increases to the customer, but at the moment we are hanging on to see what else happens.'

• See oil price story on Page 10.



Bakers Dolphin: waiting for developments.

BUYOUT

Howells takes majority stake in AJS subsidiaries

THE AJS Group has sold a majority stake in its County Bus and Coach and Sampson Coaches subsidiaries to the companies' chairman Bob Howells.

AJS says it was approached by Mr Howells while it was discussing changes to its southern companies to reduce the overhead costs to the AJS central accountancy and administrative unit.

'This is an evolutionary rather



County Bus and Coach: AJS now has minority stake.

■PEOPLE

Joliffe in charge

THE sale of AJS Yorkbased companies York City & District and Target Travel to Rider Holdings has put Nigel Joliffe in control of three AJS subsidiaries.

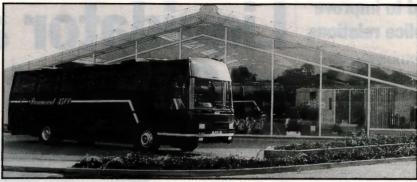
Mr Joliffe managing director of
Harrogate & District,
Yorkshire Coastliner,
and Harrogate
Independent Travel takes Keighley &
District Travel under
his wing following
the departure of Jim
Hulme to Yorkshire
Rider.

Tim Priestley becomes general manager of Harrogate & District, and Jeremy Hooper becomes general manager of Yorkshire Coastliner. than revolutionary change,' explained Giles Fearnley, AJS managing director. 'Bob has had a lot of faith in the companies, and County Bus and Coach is very different now from the company we bought in 1988.

'He has put an awful lot of effort into it. When he put his proposal to us it fitted in nicely with our plans to tackle the overheads.'

Mr Fearnley said AJS did not want to lose all its investment in the companies, so had retained a minority stake. Earlier this year, though, it sold most of the Stevenage bus network and Premier Travel Services. The remaining southern AJS firms - Sovereign Bus and Coach, Welwyn & Hatfield Line, and Cambridge Coach - will now be run without central support.

Mr Howells takes the operations for the north and north-west to include work on the Grays-Romford corridor and bus routes in Hornchurch - around half of the company working from the Grays site - while AJS retains the rest including an LRT route and a Green Line route into London. Both parts of the operation will continue to be run from the same REDUNDANCIES



Plaxton's Scarborough plant: bearing the brunt of cuts.

Plaxton cuts bus and coach jobs

THE Plaxton Group is to cut 100 jobs from its bus and coach operation. A cost cutting programme at Plaxton subsidiary Reeve Burgess has seen a further 135 jobs cut from its Chesterfield minibus building operation since May.

Last week Plaxton announced half-year profits up from £3.7 million to £5.2 million. But most of the extra profit was produced by the group's motor dealing division.

Profit from coach and bus activities dropped from £4 million in the first six months of 1989 to £1.9 million in the first half of this year.

The redundancies are split equally between white collar and manual workers and affect the manufacturing plant in Scarborough, the ex-Duple Services operation in Blackpool and the dealership at Anston.

The most senior person to lose his job is Cedric Peachey, who only joined the group as commercial director (Europe) nine months ago. Marketing manager David Goodare has also been made redundant.

Plaxton Group managing director Robert Wood said further job cuts were unlikely but warned that if the market 'goes down any further we will have to look at it again.'

Industry analysts are predicting a total UK coach market of around 1,100 units this year - one of the worst sales years on record.

Mr Wood said the cuts would wipe a 'seven figure sum' off the Plaxton payroll, but stressed that the group still employed some 3,400 people and the cuts would not affect product research and development. Thirty engineers were employed at Scarborough, which was 'approximately 30 more than when we first took over.'

Orders currently being processed by Plaxton include 50 Volvo 3500s for delivery by February 1991 to Wallace Arnold and another 50 Volvo 3500s to Parks of Hamilton by March, The first of a mixed order for 60 Plaxton bodied vehicles will also be delivered to Smiths Shearings during next year. By the end of this year, Plaxton will have built 70 Expressliners for National Express work.

■MANUFACTURING

Van Hool set to expand manufacturing capacity

BUS and trailer manufacturer Van Hool is expanding its Belgium operation with building work due to be completed in

Van Hool employs 3,500 on a 110 acre site at Koningshooikt near Lier and is adding to its 43 acre manufacturing capacity. The original 1947 factory will have a new prototype department, and across the road, a large building will expand the finishing department.

Ready in February 1991, this will remove a bottleneck in the

current production of five or six buses and coaches per day. The multi-storey building will eventually house new office accommodation for personnel and purchasing departments.

Further construction work expands fibreglass production capacity and provides a separate commercial vehicle repair department.

Although the UK is a contracting market, a Van Hool spokesman reports expansion of sales in Belgium, France, Scandinavia, Holland and USA. Current orders going down the Koningshooikt line include a batch of 150 A508 three door side-engined midibuses for Algeria and 55 Alizee coaches for Shearings - including bodies on Scania and Volvo running units.

A separately owned company, EOS Coach Manufacturing Co, builds up to 150 EOS coaches per year in a new factory working at half its maximum capacity. Van Hool expects to boost EOS sales and has no plans to move production of any other vehicle to the former LAG facilities.

■COACH SALES

Sale time at Plaxton

IN A drive to stimulate coach sales and reduce growing vehicle stocks, Plaxton is to hold its first ever summer sale.

Plaxton says the unprecedented sale of used vehicles is also a response to the competition dealers are facing from PSV auctions.

Colin Cowdery, managing director at Plaxton Retail, said: 'We wholeheartedly agree with Stuart Johnson's recent comments on auctions (Coachmart August 23). They are not the best place to buy because of the hassle and risk involved.'

He said Plaxton spent hundreds of thousands of pounds each year to ensure that every customer buying a roadworthy vehicle gets just that. 'But we must retain our competitive edge and provide the right product at the right price. So, for two weeks starting



Colin Cowdery: responding to competition from auctions.

September 17, we are holding our first ever end of summer sale.'

The sale will cut around 15 to 20 percent from Plaxton's published price list (see page 8). For example, the asking price of a 1987 Volvo B10M with Plaxton Paramount 3500 bodywork, toilet and 49 recliners will be cut from £84,850 to £74.500, A 1981 Leyland Leopard Plaxton Supreme will cost £12,500 instead of £19.850.

Minibuses will also be heavily discounted. And

the cheapest vehicle in the sale will be a 1971 Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite for £750.

As part of the sales drive, Plaxton will this week introduce a buy now pay later deal on used coaches.

Mr Cowdery described the offer as a six month pause on HP and leasing deals: 'So you can buy now and not pay until next spring. And we pick up the interest costs on the balance over the six month period which runs from when the operator pays the deposit.'

Plaxton is also offering seasonal payment terms geared to the operator's own trading pattern and low start options with reduced payment for the first 18 months.

• More than 150 vehicles will be included in the sale at Plaxton sales points in Barrhead, Anston, Bristol and Ware.

■USED SALES ROUND-UP

Government action sees sales fall

The first of a regular monthly look at sales of used coaches in the UK.

SALES of used coaches continued to fall during August as the Government's economic restraints started to bite

Operators are finding it very hard to justify changing coaches when school contracts are being revised to take into account the fall in the number of pupils and interest rates remain high.

Most sales last month came from the bottom end of the market - mainly Leyland Leopards and Bedfords with British bodywork. Ford-based coaches appear to have reached the end of the line, showing very little demand and poor resale values.

them being over cautious or whether it is to buy time in hope of arranging the finance themselves remains to be seen, but it does put undue strain on operators and dealers alike when trying to complete a deal.

The over-stocked dealers' yards can be the source of both good and bad news. The good news is that deals are being struck at rock bottom prices. The bad news is that part exchange valuations are also at rock bottom - if indeed part exchanges are even considered.

Most vehicles selling at present are competitively priced, in good condition, both mechanically and



Ford coaches: poor resale values.

Mid-price products such as Volvo, Leyland and Bedford are showing some sales potential, but top specification late model coaches are having to compete on price with bargain basement new coaches and as such are finding few buyers.

One problem facing both operators and dealers alike would appear to be the reluctance of High Street banks to assist finance houses with status reports. These are sometimes taking weeks to reach their destinations.

Whether this is due to

bodily, in the main have basic specifications with maximum seating capacities and are of types which historically always maintained a good residual value.

Operators are buying at a price they can comfortably afford from their cash flow and are resisting the temptation to overstretch themselves by entering into financial commitments they may find unable to fulfil.

Let's hope September sees a little more optimism in the market and sales pick up as new school contracts are awarded.

PSV

PSV figures are down again

SALES of PSVs dropped yet again last month, with the year-to-date totals reflecting an 8 percent drop over the first eight months of last year.

Leyland Bus showed the best figures, with its 25 new registrations in July leaping to 97 in August. This may be due to buyers hanging on for H-Reg plates, but big fleet orders also affected the figure.

Leyland DAF registrations present a sorrier figure, with half the number of new vehicles against August '89's 34 sold. And Volvo saw its second drop in sales in two months. In July, it sold less than half the number of vehicles it did in the same month in '89, while August's figures show registrations down by almost half once again.

Monthly sales of all manufacturers were down by more than a quarter on August '89 despite Leyland's orders but British PSV sales held up well against imported vehicles for the month. The year's figures reflect a more stable relationship between the two.

	Aug	ust	Year t	o date	
	1990	1989	1990	1989	
Dennis UK	25	23	242	205	
Duple UK	1	1	18	20	
Leyland Bus UK	97	82	688	710	
Leyland DAF NL	17	34	175	214	
MAN VW (De)	1	0	3	0	
MCW Optare	1	28	34	227	
Scania (Sw)	12	18	145	121	
Volvo (Sw)	33	57	582	602	
Other British	6	2	16	27	
Other imports	10	31	187	158	
Total British	130	138	998	1189	
Total imports	75	140	1097	1101	
Totals	205	278	2095	2290	

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Scottish war continues

NATIONAL Express subsidiary Caledonian Express is continuing its war on the Glasgow-Edinburgh corridor with more cut-price

After giving away tickets on the Sunday of its launch, the 'Merry-go-round' returns will be offered for the price of a single - £1.95 - for a limited period.

'Citylink has had a monopoly on the route between Glasgow and Edinburgh for too long,' said Caledonian Express general manager Alastair McPherson. 'We felt it was about time the people of Glasgow and Edinburgh were given the choice of another operator.

He claims the advantages of the 295 service are low fares and high quality... benefits not previously offered by Citylink.' Silver Coach Lines last year competed on the corridor using Setras at a £1 each way fare, but stopped the service with very low loadings.

Caledonian Express claims it carried 800 people on its free day of travel.

■COACH SERVICE

Nationals go on ASDA run

BRIGHTON Borough Transport's Lewes Coaches subsidiary is running two Leyland Nationals on five free services to and from Brighton's Asda Superstore.

Asda pays for the services, which take shoppers from Haywards Heath, Barcombe, Uckfield, Ringmer and Chailey. The new services supplement one which Lewes Coaches has run for two years. The vehicles have an Asdadedicated white livery.

Troubleshooters' investigation reveals big Boro'line losses

MAIDSTONE Council's Boro'line has lost £1.3 million, a team of management 'troubleshooters' has revealed.

Problems at Boro'line were identified in December, and an investigation of bookkeeping at Boro'line showed a worsening picture as three accountants devoted 750 man-hours to the task of sorting them

Profit forecasts of more than £400,000 made in March were inaccurate due to 'exceptionally poor records which have had to be substantially analysed and corrected,' said finance director David Coupeland.



Boro'line: recorded £1.3 million loss.

Losses had come as a result of Boro'line's seven London routes, won by tender with LRT. Boro'line director Malcolm Robertson admitted the tenders were underpriced and that the cost of setting up the services had been high. But he said

the situation could be turned around when tenders were renewed.

Mr Coupeland agreed the future looked rosier, and predicted a £33,000 profit by the end of the current financial year: 'A profit of any amount will be considered a remarkable

turnaround. This does, however, seem possible and care has been taken with the budget estimates,' he said at a council/company liaison group meeting.

Boro'line managing director Alan Price took early retirement at the beginning of March. At the end of the month a profit of more than £400,000 was forecast but book-keeping errors were not spotted until

 The deputy leader of Maidstone Council's Tory group, Mrs Jennifer Fenn, has called for the sell-off of Boro'line: 'The council has proved it cannot run a bus company and the time has come to

■FERRY

Ferry bans male groups MMC may be called in



North Sea Ferries: forced to take action after passenger problems.

NORTH Sea Ferries is to ban all-male adult groups after a drop in the standard of passengers' behaviour.

From January 1, 1991 there must be a minimum of 40 percent female members in group parties travelling between Hull and Rotterdam or Zeebrugge.

Tony Farrell, UK passenger sales manager, explains in a letter to group organisers: We have reluctantly taken the decision to turn down all such bookings in 1991. Such a policy is designed to ensure a peaceful and

relaxing crossing for all passengers.

'Deteriorating standards of behaviour on board, primarily by male groups, have influenced our decision and while inevitably innocent groups will be affected, we feel that we have no choice but to implement this policy.'

NSF's catchment area extends from Scotland down to the West Midlands.

Tours organiser Jim Pybus said: 'Coach operators have got the message that there is no need to head south for a Channel crossing.'

■COMPETITION

SUFFOLK'S county surveyor has been asked to write to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission about bus operation within the county, which a committee fears may depend on only two major operators.

According to a local newspaper, the county council's transport subcommittee decided on the move after becoming concerned at takeovers in the area, including Eastern Counties' acquisition of Blue Buses.

Both Eastern Counties and the other major Suffolk operator, Ipswich Buses, hotly condemned the action, Eastern Counties quoting a Coachmart news story to strengthen its case.

'In a recent trade journal. Suffolk's education department was quoted as saying that it dealt with 700 routes carrying 21,500 children, run by 115 operators. What kind of a monopoly do you have with 115 operators? said EC managing director Peter Brundall.

And managing director of Ipswich Buses, Malcolm Robson, said two acquisitions in the last three years had been the result of approaches made to Ipswich Buses by the companies concerned: 'We are now running more services on those routes than before, with more passengers, so I don't see how the public has suffered from that,' he added.

A spokesman for the county surveyor's office said he was surprised the sub-committee had made this demand, which resulted from an information document explaining the action taken by the DTI against Stagecoach and South Yorkshire Transport: 'There have been no giant mergers in Suffolk. I'd be very surprised if the purchase of the goodwill of Blue Buses represents a monopoly.'

■PEOPLE



Peter Rogers: plans to stay in PSV industry.

Peter steps down

MIDLAND Travel managing director Peter Rogers is to retire this week... but says he's staying in the PSV industry.

Mr Rogers (50) started in coaching with Rainworth Travel in 1972, a firm which he set up, with his wife.

He bought Dave
Haywood Coaches and
moved to Langwith
before Rainworth was
bought by East
Midlands Motor
Services and merged
into a Midland Travel
coaching subsidiary.
Both are now owned by
Stagecoach.

Bus and Coach Council regional chairman Mr Rogers is now offering his considerable experience to small operators on a consultancy basis: 'The bus and coach industry is full of super people, working in a friendly environment, with immense potential,' he

SAFETY

IN COURT

Gary takes High Court action over lost licence

GWENT operator Gary Lane is appealing to the High Court after a licence revocation cost him 14 council contracts and forced him to lay off 11 drivers.

Mr Lane, of Gary's Coaches of Tredegar, says the revocation which comes just five weeks before his licence renewal - resulted from just six prohibition notices in two years... one of which was as a result of an inspection made while the faults were under repair.

'Local operators are shocked by this,' said Mr Lane, who runs 12 vehicles and has his own workshop. 'I spend a great deal on maintenance. In fact, the tax inspectors are looking through my books because they are suspicious about the money I spend on repairs.'

He said his 14 council

contracts - including five service routes - had gone to other local operators despite his efforts over two days to get cover for every contract.

Mr Lane is to reapply for licences to start on September 30 regardless of the result of the appeal hearing.

BUS FARES

Price rises blamed on oil problems

LANCASTER City Transport is blaming rising oil prices for pushing up children's fares.

LCT put fares up to two thirds of the full fare within days of Stagecoach-owned Ribble announcing a similar increase. Its jointly-run Freedom weekly ticket for LCT and Ribble buses goes up a pound to £8.

'We have to look for extra revenue to cover additional costs,' said LCT managing director Thomas Knowles. 'It was our policy to increase children's fares to the two thirds rate, and this was an opportune time to do it.'

children's fares.

children were carrying the burden of the Gulf crisis fuel cost because they created high demand for peak-time buses, albeit only during term time.

'They can still use return tickets which, saving 20 percent of the fare, reduce each journey to around half the adult fare,' he added.

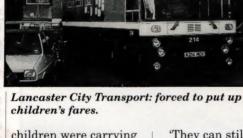
■COACH

Chinese return trip is cancelled

EXCELSIOR
chairman Vernon
Maitland has
cancelled the return
journey of his Silk
Route coach trip to
China because of
treacherous conditions.

The Volvo B10M
Plaxton 3500 will be coming back to the UK by sea after its trip along cliff-hanging mountain passes because Mr Maitland who made the trip-says the epic overland voyage was simply too dangerous.

'If we run another Silk Route trip, I'll find a buyer for the coach in China so we don't have to bring it back,' he added.



Mr Knowles claimed

Safety campaign is a big success

A CHILD bus safety campaign by the Bus and Coach Council has taken off, with more than 150,000 Buscode comics and badges in circulation.

The school information packs launched this summer by the BCC have been taken up by operators, schools, local authorities and even the police, all keen to get the message of safe bus travel across to children.

'We were very surprised at how many different groups wanted to become involved,' said a BCC spokesman. 'They included Strathclyde Regional Council, and a number of bodies who requested the original artwork so they could print their own comics and posters.' Members or non-members can contact the BCC on 071 831 7546.

FIXTURES

Routemaster tipped for the top

ONE of Stagecoach's Mansfield and District Routemasters is tipped as the bus to beat in the concours section of this year's Showbus Rally at Woburn Abbey, on September 30.

The rally has attracted a record number of entries and enthusiasts will respond as a result. Both ancient and modern vehicles will be represented at the show.

Late entries and other enquiries about the event should go to Martin Isles, 58 Anton Way, Aylesbury HP21 9TE. Tel:0962 732406, or 0296 29310/613576.

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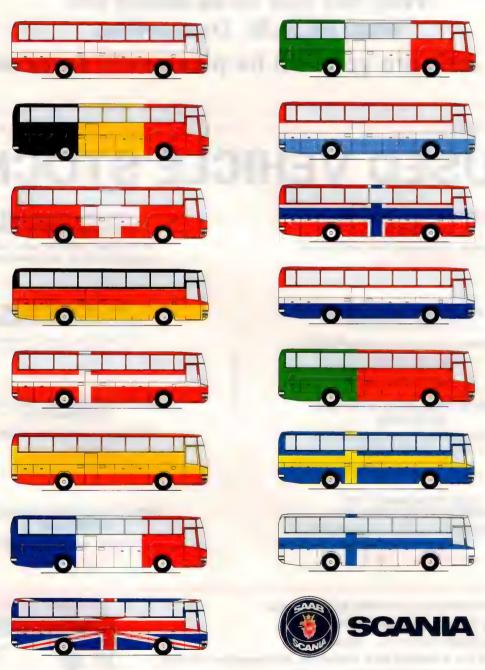
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ON TARGET



IN WHAT I hoped was a thought provoking item last week I suggested that

problems lie ahead unless we are prepared to re-design our products to match the enhanced expectations of the users.

As it relates to success and survival I judge it not wasteful to write a few more words on this important and topical matter.

As a small operator I am not particularly wise or wealthy but, in comparison to others of my rank I think I have been modestly successful.

I often wonder why some of us seem to do well, while others (who often had a better start in business life) seem to flounder.

Of one thing I am certain, even if it flies in the face of anecdotal wisdom: success in business has very little to do with luck.

Or to put it the other way round, inspection of the performance of operators who appear to be plagued with bad luck usually reveals ignorance, ineptitude and indifference.

The antithesis of these corrosive three 'Is' is, in my estimation, the success formula three 'As': attitude, ambition and association.

As I write this I have before me the report of Professor John Hibbs' survey into the attitude of managers to deregulation.

The success formula: attitude, ambition and association.

I will refrain from any detailed comment on its interesting content, save to say that I find it hardly surprising that the attitudes of those managing bus operations have been changed by deregulation.

Those in it from the days of licencing knew that to survive in a competitive market they must have different approaches, and those who entered the fray clearly had to have not only new knowledge, but also new attitudes to the conduct of their business

But attitude has wider implications.

Å sentence which is indelibly etched in my mind was spoken to me by a businessman during the last recession, 'If we knew



Excursions: operators should look for a seat sale of at least 85 percent of capacity.

Business success: not down to luck

what we know now, we could have made a packet before this started.'

By which he meant, had we practiced all the good housekeeping which the recession forced some of us to adopt, we would have made better prerecession profits.

I said 'some of us' because others did manage to struggle through without changing management attitudes to their stategies for profit generation. Will they be as fortunate when the next (or present?) recession begins to bite?

An equally fearful thought is: did some of those who changed their attitude during the last recession only do so for the duration and have they slipped back into management attitudes which turn a blind eye to wasteful staff practices, which neglects marketing, which is slothful to seek price increases, and which buys on impulse?

In a few words, a business attitude which thinks that tomorrow should. and will, be like all the yesterdays is probably heading down the path to failure.

In contrast, the attitude which fires up the brain's computer each morning with the question; 'What should we do today to increase profits?' is aimed down the road to success.

If attitude equates to the arrow, ambition is analogous to the target.

I am a great believer in targets. To not be aiming for something is to drift.

In a small business I could never really see how to have a five year business plan, as opportunities have to be taken and challenges met as and when they arise.

But, by way of illustration, I return to the question of luck.

Tendered contracts are not won, excursions filled, private hire booked or vehicles kept safe and reliable, by luck. I aim to win only about one tender in ten. Too much less and I am out of the race, too many more means that, to me, my price is too low.

We can all learn from other people's business ideas.

On excursions there has to be a marketing plan which promises an overall seat sale in excess of 85 percent capacity, with the target set even higher than that and when the target is achieved it is then set higher.

On private hires, where (unlike tenders) there is an opportunity to sell the quality of the service, the target is to turn three out of every five quotes into a booking.

When that target is met, it is the price that goes up, not the booking ratio target!

Meeting these lower levels of performance does enable larger targets to be set and met. Typically, these will relate to annual profits and the financial ability (not impulse) to increase or update the fleet, or to fund/plan for retirement.

In passing, I fear that the proprietors or directors of many small businesses who are doing no more than keeping their heads above water may be doomed to an old age of poverty if they do not do something about it now. For many the business is their pension plan.

That leaves association. In my experience this is very important - especially to small and embryonic businesses. More so than education, which you will notice I have not mentioned.

The world is full of selfmade millionaires who have no formal qualifications but no shortage of ambition, attitude and the desire to associate. Those with the first two 'As' will learn, fast, from association with other businessmen.

I have benefitted greatly from membership of Bus and Coach Council, a chamber of trade and a little bit of public service.

Nothing else that I can think of is so capable of opening the eyes of any small entrepreneur to the broader horizons of business opportunity.

Despite competition, formal and informal association with other operators still gives me new ideas for excursion venues, for marketing, on staffing matters, on technical matters, on legislation,the list is endless. And, generally speaking, it comes almost free of charge!

As I have said many times before, the ideas that I get through association in BCC repays my annual subscription several-fold each year.

Those who fail to use its facility to associate never get this valuable, yet invisible, bonus. But, again from personal experience, a fairly catholic approach to association is beneficial.

If a chamber of trade, a polytechnic or college, or even a local authority are running a seminar on a business topic, the cross fertilisation of ideas from different business cultures can give a new approach to something in our very insular industry.

Unless I am much mistaken, some form of recession looms. Planning to be a success may be the only way through it. You've been buying...You've been buying...You've been buying...You've been buying...You'

Viscount chooses Olympian buses

NEW for Peterborough-based Viscount Bus & Coach Co Ltd are three Leyland Olympian double deck buses.

The Cambus Holdings Group subsidiary ordered the Workington-built vehicles with a number of special

Mercedes 709D midibuses go on Hoppa route



LONDON Buslines, part of Len Wright's Q-Drive group, has taken delivery of four new Reeve Burgess-bodied Mercedes Benz midibuses for operation on the Fulham Hoppa service.

The route runs from Putney Bridge to Chelsea and has been operated under contract to London Regional Transport since introduction in April 1989.

Replacing smaller
Mercedes vehicles, the
new buses are 25 seat
709Ds with automatic
gearbox and Telma
retarders. General
manager of London
Buslines, David Brown,
said: "The route has been
very popular, which is
why we have replaced 20
seaters with the bigger
Beaver-bodied buses.'

He said the company was very pleased with Mercedes Benz reliability.

The steel framed Beaver bodies have special high visibility features to help people with disabilities. features to make travel easier for less able travellers.

Conforming to Diptac specification, the Olympians have high visibility step edges and bell pushes, textured handgrips and tacktile message plates.

Illuminated signs advise passengers when the bus is

about to stop, and Vultron electronic destination equipment is fitted on three sides of the 78 seat bodywork.

The latest deliveries bring Viscount's Olympian fleet to 10. Traffic manager David Shadbolt said: 'We are very pleased with the new buses, which will help us to continue to provide the best possible service to our customers in Peterborough and the surrounding area.'

Pictured is Roger Turner (left), bus area sales manager for VL Bus & Coach (UK) Ltd, handing over the new buses to David Shadbolt (right), Viscount traffic manager.



Vision sees need for first coach

VISION Travel, of Ipswich, has purchased its first coach. The 1982 DAF DKTL Jonckheere Bermuda 12 metre luxury coach was acquired from the Moseley Group and re-coloured by Vision Travel in its attractive kingfisher blue livery with white and grey reliefs.

Managing director Chris Fosker said the company had been operating as a tour company for 18 months. Vehicles are normally hiredin for UK and continental tours from Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

He said: 'We are very busy up to Christmas, and bookings after that are looking good. We decided to buy our own coach because we are trying to keep it all in-house - I do most of the



driving.

Popular destinations over the winter period include weekend breaks to Paris, Amsterdam and London. The mid-engined DAF features 49 reclining seats, rear sunken toilet, colour monitor/video, and drinks machine. It will be maintained under contract by Marshalls, of Ipswich. ou've been buying...You've been buying...You've been buying...You've been buying...You've

Fifth Elme Carecoach for Salford

A FIFTH Elme nine metre Carecoach has been supplied to City of Salford Social Service operations department.

The Portuguese body is mounted on Leyland Swift 4.4 metre chassis with Cummins B series turbocharged engine. It is finished in full soft trim. Some of the high back coach seats are mounted on Unwin tracking to provide access for passengers in wheelchairs.

A Henderson Hideaway lift is mounted amid-ships under the body enabling safe loading and unloading of wheelchair passengers through the centre doorway.

Morton Swift, managing director of supplier Avondale International Ltd, told Coachmart: 'This type of vehicle has proved very popular with passengers and drivers because it is obviously a coach instead of the usual social service type welfare vehicle.' Avondale sales of Elme-bodied Swifts total 40 during the past 18 months -



11 to Carecoach specification. The Carecoach also features tinted side windows, full draw curtains, courier seat, three cubic metre rear luggage boot and power door. A supplementary set of high mounted rear lights are provided for added safety.

Lynx in service with Badgerline



BADGERLINE has introduced seven new Leyland Lynx buses in a half million pound investment.

Supplied by VL Bus and Coach (UK) Ltd, the Lynx have been put on services from Wells to Bath, Bristol and Yeovil.

The Badgerline specification includes Cummins engines developed to meet government exhaust emmissions limits which come into force in April

All seven buses feature wide entrance doors, dual height entrance step, non-slip flooring and brightly coloured, easy grip hand rails. Moquette seating and air suspension are added attractions for the travelling public.

To launch the new buses, a reception for press and invited guests was followed by an opportunity for the general public to examine the Lynx and obtain local bus service information.

Prindale picks Volvo again



DAVID Allan, proprietor of Prindale Coaches, has purchased a fourth Volvo coach for the summer season.

The six-year-old 49 seater Plaxton Paramount-bodied vehicle came from Moseley. It is to Excelsior Motorways specification with low driver position and without the Paramount feature window.

Mr Allan had the bodywork repainted by Express Coach Repairs, of Pickering. However, pressure of work prevented prompt application of signwriting.

Ably assisted by his wife Pearl, Mr Allan started the Castleford-based coach operation ten years ago. The latest coach joins one other executive type coach, two 53 seaters and a Mercedes mini.

Until 1988 the business operated from Leeds, then Prindale moved to Castleford as a more suitable base for tours, contracts and private hire.





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Readers have their say on children's safety on long distance express coach journeys.

From Roger Heffer

SIR

You will be pleased to know that I have been an avid coach enthusiast for many years and a regular subscriber to your magazine for a similar period. Although not being an operator, I am perhaps a frustrated operator and keep up-to-date with events in your excellent magazine.

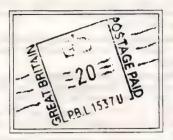
Perhaps another link is that for family reasons my two children have been commuting on National Express Rapide coaches for more than six years now and I feel now is the time to write to you with some degree of confidence on the issue raised in your August 23 issue.

While acknowledging the individual driver's responsibility and concern, it is for the parents to ensure that the travelling children are both delivered to and seen on the coach and also collected from and seen off the coach.

With my children now having some 150 journeys accomplished, at no time have we, as responsible parents, ever failed our children. At all times we have found courtesy and consideration from both drivers and hostesses. In fact it was provision of the latter two representatives of the coach travel industry that highlighted to us the safety and security of using hostess-accompanied travel.

There have been inevitable misfortunes, which the number of journeys concerned are no more than statistically acceptable, and these have ranged from punctures, fuel pump failures, fires etc, but on all occasions the children have been the first consideration. Free teas and Mars bars have often been provided even though the children had money of their own.

Most of the journeys concerned have been from the West Country through to Victoria Coach Station, but other journeys equally have



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been made.

If there is a weak link in the chain it is the absolute dearth of information at each end of the journey when problems arrive en-route. Often information given out on the national news network is unknown to the VCS staff, but the West Country end is marginally better.

Now I have come to one of my hobby horses that I think should be essential on all National Express vehicles which is the provision of an incoach telephone exclusively for the use of the driver. On occasions when I have

travelled with this facility they have been of inestimable value.

The capital investment must be capable of recovery in a short time due to the flexibility offered to drivers and hostesses with the ability to warn succeeding and/or oncoming coaches of incidents which inevitably happen on motorways.

I feel that one or two drivers may have experienced problems with irresponsible parents and this must not be allowed to condition the fact that the vast majority of unaccompanied children enjoy safe, friendly travel which must in itself be an investment to the entire industry in that they would seek to continue this method of travel when involved with further education or university, and optimistically through the rest of their life.

I much prefer the current layout of your magazine and I anticipate you will continue to provide high standard articles of interest, not only to operators, but also people like myself who are dedicated enthusiasts.

ROGER HEFFER GRENVILLE 9 CORDREY GARDENS COULSDON WOODS COULSDON

Legislation is needed to help children

From Roger Sexton

SIR

I find myself in broad agreement with your editorial on August 23 regarding unaccompanied children as passengers on long distance services. I will confine myself to two observations.

Firstly, many (perhaps most) children travelling on their own are children of divorced or separated parents making 'access' visits to the non-custodial parent. Such children are particularly vulnerable.

The journey is likely to be at an exceptionally busy time (Fridays or holidays); the child may not want to travel; the estranged parents may not be co-operative when it comes to 'meeting arrangements'.

Secondly, I would support a 'no unaccompanied children under 12' rule. However, this would be difficult to achieve by agreement between operators. Indeed I regret to say that such an agreement might well fall foul of competition law!

Unfortunately, it seems that the matter can only be dealt with by legislation.

ROGER SEXTON
FACULTY OF LAW, ECONOMICS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
NOTTINGHAM POLYTECHNIC

Citylink's 'safety policy'

From Paul Standish

SIR

I read with interest the articles in *Coachmart* concerning the carriage of unaccompanied children.

The London office of Scottish Citylink has operated an unofficial policy on this matter for a number of years.

Firstly, we try if possible to discourage anyone trying to send a child unaccompanied on a long journey, telling the parent and/or the agent that it is not fair on the child or on the driver in whose care the child is being given.

If the parent still insists that the child is to travel unaccompanied then we apply the following rules for children under 13 years:

• We refuse travel on

overnight coaches and only allow unaccompanied children to travel on the day Cordon Bleu services where they can be kept an eye on by the steward, and not given the opportunity to get lost on a motorway service area;

• We insist that the child is met at the destination, but just in case they are not, we only allow travel to places where there is a bus station i.e. not to a road-side drop-off point, so that the driver can always hand the child over to an inspector or booking office staff until the parent or another relative collects them;

• Children under nine years are refused travel. Full stop.

Very few people find these conditions unreasonable.

PAUL STANDISH LONDON OFFICE SCOTTISH CITYLINK

SUPPLIERS & REPAIR SPECIALISTS FAX: 0509 843416

1989 G DSB DUBRAVA 3500 Mercedes powered, integral luxury coach fitted with 49R-sts (provision for fitting toilet), courier seat, Continental door, wired for TV/Video/drinks machine, Blaupunkt 'Blue Spot' radio/PA/cassette, full soft trim. INT: Grey/red. EXT: White/blue reliefs. Low mileage. MoT Sept 91.

1989 F DSB DUBRAVA 3200, Mercedes powered, integral luxury coach fitted with 51MTB R-sts, demountable toilet and Continental door, TV/video, courier seat, wired for drinks machine, double glazed side windows, Webasto. INT: Samba Flame. EXT: White/brown reliefs. MoT June 91.

1989 F DSB DUBRAVA 3200, Mercedes powered, integral luxury coach fitted with 53 seats (48 reclining & fixed 5-way), courier seat, curtains, double glazed side windows, Webasto, wired for TV/video/drinks machine, full soft interior trim. INT: Grey/red. EXT: White, colour coded bumpers. MoT November 90. Will re-test.

1987 D VOLVO B16M CAETANO ALGARVE luxury coach fitted with 51/53 R-sts, rear o/s demountable toilet, Continental door, Sutrak air conditioning, Webasto, courier seat, radio/PA, full soft interior trim, driver's berth, curtains. INT: Brown/orange. EXT: White/blue reliefs. MoT Feb 91.

1985 B NEOPLAN SKYLINER double-deck luxury coach fitted with 77 R-sts, toilet, servery, 2 x TV/video, side window blinds, full soft interior trim, driver's berth. INT: Brown/orange. EXT: White. MoT April 90. (Finance House repossession – offers invited in excess of £45,000).

1984 A MAN SR280 luxury coach fitted with 55 R-sts. Double glazed tinted side windows, courier seat. INT: Brown. EXT: White. MoT June 91.

1982 X LEYLAND TIGER 245 PLAXTON SUPREME V coach fitted with 53 fixed seats, curtains, power door, radio/PA. INT: Red stripe. EXT: White/blue relief. MoT current.

1981 W LEYLAND LEOPARD (Semi-auto) Plaxton Supreme coach fitted with 47 R-sts, courier seat. INT: Brown/orange. EXT: White. MoT November 90. Will re-test.

1979 P PLATES FORD R1114 PLAXTON SUPREME IV luxury coach fitted with 48 R-sts, rear floor mounted toilet, radio/PA. INT: Red. EXT: White. MoT March 91.

1987 E VW LT-50 SPRINTER dual purpose coach fitted with 22 low-back seats, front luggage pen, rear boot, power operated entrance door (Jacknife-type). INT: Red. EXT: Red/Multi. MoT March 91.

1987 E VW LT-50 SPRINTER LUXURY MIDICOACH fitted with 23 Hi-back seats, parcel racks incorporating individual air blowers and reading lights, power operated entrance door, rear luggage boot. INT: Brown. EXT: White/red. MoT October 90.

1986 C IVECO DAILY (PETROL) MELLOR LUXURY MINICOACH fitted with 14 Hi-back seats. INT: Maroon. EXT: White/red. MoT June 91.

D LEYLAND FREIGHTROVER 350D MINICOACH fitted with 16 Hi-back seats, luggage racks, full soft interior trim. INT: Red. EXT: Cream/red. MoT May 91.

1978 BEDFORD PJK PLAXTON SUPREME MIDICOACH fitted with 29 seats, re-trimmed. Radio/PA. INT: Brown. EXT: Cream/red relief.

> ANY NUMBER OF VEHICLES CONSIDERED IN PART-EXCHANGE ASHBY ROAD, LONG WHATTON, LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICS, B5324 OFF A6



DAF

89 (F) SB 2300 - CAFTANO ALGARVE Low driver, 49/53 recliners, courier seat, double-glazed, centre sunken demountable toilet, continental door, radio/PA/cassette

8 (E) MB 230 VANHOOL ALIZEE 51 recliners, courier seat, toilet, cont door, double glazed, Telma, radio, drinks machine

E) MB 230 – CAETANO ALGARVE 53 recliners, courier seat, continental door, curtains, radio/PA/cassette.

6 (C) BOVA FUTURA FHD

49 recliners (retrimmed), courier seat, centre sunken toilet, continental door, double-glazed, berth, hot water boiler, radio/PA, boxed/wired for video.

5 (C) SB 2300 - LAG GALAXY

53 recliners, courier seat, continental door, Webasto, curtains, radio.

S (C) BOVA FUTURA FI D 53 seats, double glazed, courier seats, power door, radio.

1986 (C) MB 200 - SMIT ORION 53 recliners, power door, curtains, radio. M (A) MR 200 - DUPLE LASER I

57 seats, power door, side locker.

R3 (Y) ROVA FUROPA I

46 recliners, rear sunken toilet, continental door, Webasto, boxed/wired for video.

1982 (PP) BOVA EUROPA II 52 recliners, power door, radio.

VOLVO

1983 (PP) R10M - JONCKHEERE P90 58 recliners courier seat, toilet, boiler.

DR2 (Y) RSR - SUPREME IV EXP 53 seats, power doors.

MERCEDES

83 (PP) 0303 - JONCKHEERE PS0 49 recliners, centre sunken toilet, continental door, radio, blinds.

2 (PP) 0303 – JONCKHEERE RERMIINA

49 recliners, power door, centre toilet, berth, courier seats.

BEDFORD

7 (F) YMP - PARAMOUNT 3200 35 seats, power door, tinted windows,

1987 (D) YMPS PARAMOUNT 3200 35 seats, power door, radio.

1987 (D) VNV - CAFTANO ALGARVE 57 seats, power door, side locker.

S (C) VNV . PARAMOUNT 3200 52 seats, toilet, servery, boxed/wired for

5 (C) YNV – CAETANO ALGARVE 53 recliners, continental door, tinted windows, curtains, power door, radio.

video, side lockers, power door.

LEYLAND/AEC

1987 (D) TIGER 260 - DUPLE 320 48 recliners, courier seat, toilet, servery, power door, side lockers.

RA (A) ROYAL TIGER - PARAMOLINT 3500 49 recliners, power door, centre sunken toilet, berth, continental door, boiler,

1983 (Y) TIGER 245 ZF - PARAMOUNT 3500 49 recliners, courier seat, rear sunken toilet, berth, double-glazed.

83 (Y) TIGER 218 ZF - PARAMOUNT 3200 57 seats, power door, tinted windows.

982 (X) LEOPARD ZF – DOMINANT II 53 seats Bristol Dome

MINIBUS

R (F) TALBOT - PULLMAN EXPRESS 22 (moquette) bus seats, power doors.

87 (D) MAN 8.136 - REEVE BURGESS 32 seats, power door, radio.

86 (D) MERCEDES 609D CICELEY 16 seats, parcel racks, radio.

6 (C) IVECO 79 14 - CAETANO VIANA GL 19 seats, power door, tinted windows, curtains, forced air, reading

Police posed problems

From A Donald

SIR

The stopping of PSV coaches on the 'hard shoulder' on major motorways so the police can carry out mini MOT tests must stop now.

When a PSV driver that has not committed a moving road traffic offence is pulled onto the hard shoulder (with passengers seated on his coach) by Strathclyde Police and, as I said, a mini MOT check is carried out on his coach, it is not in the interest of 'road safety' to pump air out of the system just to find if the 'air warning buzzer' is working.

Nor is it to open the emergency rear exit door to check another buzzer. These force the driver to build up the air pressure before the coach can move. Must I go on with the rest of the checks?

Is not the hard shoulder only for emergencies? That has been my opinion after 30 years experience driving PSVs and ensuring paramount safety for my passengers.

I complained to the Home Office about this practice and I was informed that my complaint was put to the Association of Chief Police Officers Traffic Committee. They say it is not a practice they would encourage (and so say all of us PSV drivers). They also say coaches should only stop on the hard shoulder in an emergency. For routine vehicle or driver checks they would be stopped at service stations or intersections.

The committee agree with me and and have upheld my complaint, but Strathclyde Police's Chief Superintendent of Traffic writes in his recent letter to me (dated August 17, 1990) 'It is not possible to give a categoric assurance that in no circumstances will a road check of this nature ever be carried out.'

Must we all wait until a major PSV disaster happens on the hard shoulder before an assurance is given? Strathclyde Police just won't admit they were wrong.

I would hope Coachmart will publish this letter to encourage further views on this major problem.

A DONALD 17 COOK ROAD BALLOCH DUNBARTONSHIRE

Where's our trophies?

From Martin Isles

STR

Could I please appeal through your columns for a return of Showbus Rally trophies?

Over the years odd trophies which should be returned annually have gone astray. If any of your readers have one gathering dust in a corner somewhere, I would be grateful if they would return to the address below in time for the 1990 Woburn event on September 30.

MARTIN ISLES
RALLY ORGANISER
58 ANTON WAY
AYLESBURY

NOSTALGIA CORNER



DURING the Second World War, the Ministry of War Transport allocated new buses to operators in greatest need.

Body and chassis production were restricted, but in 1942 the ministry approved the assembly of a number of Leyland chassis to pre-war specification using existing stocks of parts. Two of these TD7 'unfrozen' chassis were supplied to Lancashire United Transport of Atherton.

Although the mechanical specification was to prewar standard, the low-bridge Roe 55 seat bodywork was to the strict 'utility' standards then in force.

Roe single deck bodywork was LUT's main choice, but these were its first double deckers supplied by the Leeds factory. Further 'utility' buses were received with a variety of bodywork on Daimler and Guy chassis to cope with an increasing commitment to transporting coal-miners and factory workers. Notable was the increase in traffic to Manchester's Trafford Park.

The second of the 'unfrozen' batch, FTB 746, is seen outside Atherton depot on September 20, 1958. It was withdrawn two years later.

A 'friendly' tip for pupils

From J M Black

SIR

I refer to the article 'Books are well worth examining' in issue 603 of *Coachmart* and would like to add to this.

As a regular reader wishing to obtain a CPC, I responded to the advertisement placed by Friendberry and sent for their manuals and the optional tapes, the latter being well worth the extra, for the home study course.

I went on the one-day revision course before the examination and eventually obtained my certificate. I would recommend either the home study or the course to anyone.

I have no connection with Friendberry whatsoever other than as a satisfied customer.

J M BLACK
BRUNEL
17 PHILIP STREET
FENTON
STOKE-ON-TRENT

Help is wanted from readers

From JR Johnson

SIR

Regarding the terms and conditions for private hire, we are now looking at this very important aspect of operation as we understand several operators enclose booking conditions when a coach is booked whereby the customer signs these conditions upon acceptance of the quotation.

Our main concern, among many others, is baggage/ personal belongings etc, and I would therefore be grateful for details of any specimen guidelines that you may have in the overall field related to terms and conditions.

Finally, I would stress I refer only to private hire and not holiday tours, the latter being covered by individual insurance taken out by respective customers plus the fact we do have our own conditions in line with our specific tour requirements etc.

J R JOHNSON JOHNSONS (HENLEY) LTD HENLEY-IN-ARDEN SOLIHULL

Coachmart will be pleased to hear from anyone with information which may help Mr Johnson.



THERE'S NO EXCUSE!

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM

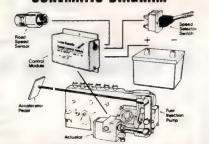
articularly in view of the fact that Lucas Kienzle are offering an attractively priced kit for all Coaches with mechanical or outdated electronic tachographs. From 10th September 1990 until stocks last a 1318 Automatic Tachograph (with power cable) plus the Speed Limiter Module

and Actuator are available at a special price which is over 20% below normal retail prices.*

We have more than 150 distributors throughout the UK and Ireland who can advise and fit the Speed Limiter system for you - but hurry because as from 1 April 1991 all Coaches first used after 1 April 1974 must be fitted BY LAW and set to a maximum speed of 70 MPH.

Obeying the law and avoiding heavy fines is not the only benefit that comes with fitting one of our Speed Limiters.

For a start our electronic Speed Limiter has proved itself, through constant testing and development, to be extremely reliable. It can also save as much as 14% on fuel bills and due to less wear and tear on engines, transmissions, brakes and tyres you can reduce your



maintenance costs as well.

That's not all, for driver comfort we've also designed our product so there's no sensation of engine hunting and full power is always available. In fact, it's so smooth that the only sign of operation is a change in engine sound.

If you want to know more about our products or how the law effects your company, then fill in the attached coupon and send it to Lucas Kienzle Instruments Ltd, 36 Gravelly Industrial Park, Birmingham B24 8TA. Or alternatively take advantage of our 24 hour help line on 021 327 7414.

*Additional brackets to suit each application are required - See your local distributor. A Road Speed Sender Unit and cable may also be required.

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Title		
Company		
Address		
	Post Code	
Tel No		
No of Coaches (Requiring speed limiters)——	-	



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Cecil's in the fast lane



Cecil Parkinson: in the driving seat.

THE Right Honourable Cecil Parkinson MP has been criticised widely for his lack of a transport policy. But Mealstop can reveal that he has now got the problem taped.

The Secretary of State for Transport is backing a real winner - a navigation system which directs the motorist away from one traffic jam so he can go by another route, and create another traffic jam.

Exactly how this sophisticated computer system will apply to buses and coaches has not yet been made clear. Presumably, bus passengers can also tap into it so that they can tell which route the bus driver has decided to take that particular morning. A brief sprint up the road, left at the traffic lights and there's your bus...

According to manufacturer General Logistics, Trafficmaster answers the needs of motorists 'starved of really accurate motorway traffic information.'

Dare we suggest that the only traffic information relevant to today's motorist is the number of cars in relation to the size of this tiny island, and the number of chest complaints caused by the fumes from traffic jams.

Still, as past history proves, Mr Parkinson is a great believer in short-term alternative routes, both in transport and in his private life...

• ACCORDING to Christie's 'The marquee shook with unparalleled applause as the hammer finally fell on lot 63...' in Pebble Beach, California.

The reason for this rapture? The oldest bus in the world - a 1903 Gottlieb Daimler bodied by Milnes - had fetched a staggering \$253,000 against its



Coachmart's new diary column



1903 Gottlieb Daimler: still out in front.

expected sale price of \$65,000.

The chain-driven vehicle was once owned by Tunbridge Wells, Southborough and District Omnibus Company, then passed to Brighton, Hove and Preston Omnibus, the last owner to commercially operate it.

Now, the old girl is living Stateside with her new American owner. It's just a pity that she couldn't spend her retirement, aged 85, back at home among the rolling downlands of the south-east.

• NON-SMOKING 13-year-old Jennifer Briggs is getting a special school bus to pull up near her home so she can avoid her smoking pals.

Today newspaper says she suffered sickness, headaches and a cough because fellow pupils as young as 13 were getting their nicotine fix on the way to Great Marlow Comprehensive School, Bucks. So the education authority has arranged a special service for her

Mealstop could have saved the authority the trouble. The solution is called 'discipline' and 'parental control.'

This little-known but once popular part of life consisted of adults smacking smoking children in the ear, thus causing the child to associate disobedience with pain.

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1979 BRISTOL VRT Leyland June '91. Engine, ECW, 74 seats, MoT all June '91, choice of 3.

1975 BRISTOL VRT Leyland
Engine, ECW, 74 seats, MoT

March '91, choice of 2. 1972 LEYLAND ATLANTEAN 680 Alexander, 74 seats, MoT exp., choice of 2.

A large selection of Leyland National service buses. 73/74/75, with good MoTs

1983 LEYLAND TIGER 245 Plaxton Paramount 3500, 49 seats, MoT June

'91. 1983 LEYLAND TIGER 245 Plaxton 1983 LEYLAND TIGER 245 Plaxton Paramount 3200, 49 seats, MoT March

1982 LEYLAND LEOPARD 680 Plaxton Surpreme, 50 reclining seats, MoT May

191. LEYLAND LEOPARD 680 Plaxton
1981 LEYLAND LEOPARD 680 Plaxton
Surpreme, 50 reclining seats, new MoT.
1979 VOLVO B58 Duple Dominant, 53

seats, MoT July '91, 1979 VOLVO B58 Van Hool, 53 seats, MoT June '91. 1979 BEDFORD YMT Duple Dominant,

53 seats, Dec '90. 1977 BRISTOL LHL LEYLAND 101 Engine Plaxton, 53 seats, MoT April '91.
1975 BRISTOL LH LEYLAND 401
1975 BRISTOL LH LEYLAND 401 Plaxton, 43 seats, Class 5 MoT

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RESIDENTS WELCOME COACH BAN

Westminster is proposing to ban coaches from 160 of its streets. Resident Verite Baker welcomes the move.

S a Westminster resident, I am delighted with the forthcoming ban on coaches using our streets.

Those who are angry about the ban only have themselves to blame. Perhaps they might like to try to drive down our narrow streets and meet a coach coming the opposite way.

Or sit in one of our squares on a hot Sunday afternoon and find they can't get a bit of peace because of the loud commentary that blares across from the

open-topped buses.

Or try to help old residents carry their shopping past coaches loading up with suitcases on the streets, often parked illegally on street corners.

If we phone Victoria Coach Station to say that a coach is loading passengers for France or Spain in the street, we are told

it is none of its business.

Perhaps it could take a leaf out of Heathrow's book and install an answering machine to take complaints and make sure that whoever's business it is gets informed.

When these coaches return at the crack of dawn they drop their passengers and their rubbish and then hoot their horns as they leave just in case any of us have managed to sleep through the racket.

London residents are never asked if they welcome tourists.

In case you think we don't care about coaches, 26 percent of us don't own cars, and use the coach services from Victoria Coach Station.

National Express and Greenline see us often, and although we would like an overall standard of cleanliness in all the coaches, and wouldn't mind paying more to get this, we realise we are lucky to have the coaches on our doorstep.

If only they wouldn't practice Le Mans type starts on the hour and thunder through our streets in convoy. Try telephoning anyone on the hour if you live in Ebury Street, and you just have to put



London tourism: is proving a nightmare for residents.



the 'phone down.

We watched the filming of Upstairs, Downstairs with fascination, little realising that the popularity of the series now means that coaches from all over Britain and Europe have included Eaton Place in their itinerary, just to see where the Bellamy family 'lived'.



With hearts in our mouths, we watch coaches lurch round from Belgrave Place, just missing the bollards but having to climb the pavement to do so.

Some coaches even have guides standing up so the driver can't see what's coming up from the left. A little boy nearly got hit by one coach last year.

The same thing happens when coaches leave Victoria. Why do so many drivers need someone standing on the front steps of the coach? Isn't this illegal?

Oh, and didn't the law change recently to make it illegal for drivers to guide? We don't like to think that drivers are talking about the Bellamy family when they should be watching the roads.

Another moan is the coach drivers who object when we ask them to move so that we can get to a resident's parking space in Belgrave, Hanover and Grosvenor Squares. One of these days, you'll find those of use with cars parked in the middle of your garage and using the same old English language when you quite rightly ask us to move.

'No-one encourages us to use coaches, they just clog up our roads.'

Each year the London Tourist Board carries out a survey which is written up in the *Evening Standard*, saying that Londoners welcome tourists. Strangely they never seem to ask any residents.

Last year the tourist board ran a conference to tell members what it proposed for London into the 21st Century. We phoned to ask if it would like the views of residents, and were told that if we wanted to know what was planned for our home town we could pay to attend. Thanks very much.

We would welcome coach companies to our residents association meetings. We

also make a charge but it's only £10 per annum for postage and admin costs - and the Goring Hotel hosts a marvellous annual meeting each winter where we invite the Police, and anyone else whom we think can help us and with whom we would like to work, to ensure that the area stays an attractive one in which to live.

We realise that 40 people can fit happily into a coach leaving much more road space and unpolluted air for everyone.

But when we see coaches travelling around in a haze of smoke, we wonder why your industry doesn't tell companies to clean up their act to encourage passengers

No-one encourages us to use coaches. Instead we have them clogging up our roads and since they no longer need a licence, we find that the Police can't stop coaches dropping off illegally.

We admire your drivers' skill, but are terrified when a coach swooshes past, displacing a lot of air in a crowded street, even though the driver may be perfectly safe.

It's costing us £64,000 to put up 'coach ban' signs, and Bayswater residents will have to pay £46,000. But we think it's worth it.

And now that we have managed to take the first step, we are finding a



tremendous amount of interest from friends living in other boroughs, so before there are further bans on coaches on all except the main roads in London, wouldn't it be better to find out what we want?

The arguments given us that we need tourists to keep restaurants, theatres and hotels full doesn't wash with us. You wouldn't catch most of us in the average tourist micro-waved restaurant. And before the tourist boom, we only had to wait a month at the most before we saw the latest hit show - not the six months we have to wait now.

The GLC sensibly insisted on coach parking spaces being allocated in all new hotel developments, but we hear that the hotel at Hyde Park Corner is going to use up space in Grosvenor Crescent. That means less for us.

If you have read this far, thank you for allowing me to sound off. So please can the coaching industry try to work with residents to minimise problems? After all, it costs us a lot of money to buy and keep up the beautiful Thomas Cubbit houses you want your passengers to see.

You have to pay to take your groups to a stately home, so why shouldn't you pay to make use of our area if you run tourist coaches?

There is a statement in the report of the Planning and Transportation Committee of the City of Westminster saying that 'a further report be presented to the committee setting out the effects of the bans and whether they may be appropriate to other parts of Westminster.'

Originally the ban was only going to be in Belgravia and Bayswater, but at the same time the consultations were being undertaken a number of representations were received from residents in the Montagu and Bryanston Square areas. The ban boundary was then extended to Gloucester Place.

From October, your drivers will see 'no coach ' signs at the entrance to all banned streets. And traffic measures state that no coach/bus which carries 12 persons or more shall enter or proceed along any prescribed street, except to pick up and set down passengers, or gain access to garaging, or operate a local bus service.

Westminster Council has said that: large coaches are too cumbersome to use residential streets, and can cause damage, nuisance and unpleasantness through noise, exhaust emissions and vibration. Reducing their movement by introduction of the area coach ban will help to improve the environment of the proposed areas.'

And so say all of us.

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FREIGHT ROVER 350, diesel, 18 moquette bus seats, high roof, soft trim. 1st reg 1/8/87. Annual June '91. £9,950

FREIGHT ROVER SHERPA, 16 + 5 standees, moquette bus seats, white/red/blue exterior, power door, diesel, tacho, Autumn interior. 1st reg 1/10/86. Annual Jan '91. £9,950

SHERPA 350 DIESEL, 16 moquette seats, high roof, radio, tacho. 1st reg 1/1/86. Feb '91. £8,950

FORD SCORPIO, D reg, 4 door saloon, 1986, 1 year MoT, metallic grey, petrol, full body kit plus colour coding. £7,300

TALBOT EXPRESS, Derv, 14 seater, white/brown with Autumn interior. 1st reg 30/9/87. Annual November '90. £8,450.

MERCS 709, 1987, 26 moquette seats, boot, diesel, annual 1 year. £17,950.

FORD TRANSIT, 16 seater diesel, O/D, high back moquette seats, tacho. 1st reg 1/11/84. Annual April '91. £6,950

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MINISTER'S PARKING PLEDGE LLL

Minister for Public Transport Roger Freeman has been touring London's traffic black-spots. Mark Williams reveals what he discovered.

INISTER for Public
Transport Roger
Freeman MP last week
promised action over
London coach parking
following his fact-finding tour of the
capital.

Mr Freeman saw first-hand the horrors operators face within the city when he took a round trip of Westminster in a coach organised by the Bus and Coach Council.

Afterwards, he promised an October 16 meeting with everyone involved in coach tourism in London - including borough council representatives.

'I will try to get them all together in October. There will be a plethora of interested players in the game,' said Mr Freeman.

'I am under no illusion. The solution to this problem will cost money.'

Mr Freeman sat aboard an Armchair Passenger Transport Plaxton Tiger for two hours listening to the complaints of the BCC, member coach operators, and a tourist guide while taking notes.

He toured the major sightseeing areas of London - including The Mall - and left the coach briefly at Vauxhall Coach Park after a bumpy ride across its pitted and potholed surface. The park, he was told, is among others due to close bringing the number of long-term London coach parking bays from 800 down to 440,

At journey's end at the meter coach parking at Marsham Street, he told journalists and operators: 'I have listed 21 problem areas during this trip.

'I am a resident of London and I'm often tempted to think 'why should we have all these tourists?' A moment's thought is all that's required to understand that this is an important and legitimate industry.

We must work to make a pleasant environment for tourists and get their continued goodwill.'

He recognised there were problems with parking and with the long-term future of London's coaching, including Victoria Coach Station.

Victoria Coach Station is already



Minister for Public Transport Roger Freeman (left foreground) with BCC President Alan Westwell: London's environment must be more attractive to tourists.

stretched,' he said. 'The thought of the very elderly struggling across London with a suitcase fills me with horror. If we are going to move Victoria Coach Station, we have got to move the whole lot. Satellite stations are not the solution.'

Tourist traps are 'horrific'

ARMCHAIR tour guide Sally Goodman described the scene at many of London's tourist attractions as 'horrific' during peak times.

She told Roger Freeman MP that coaches were being forced on to a merry-go-round circuit of the already congested city streets because of short-sighted planning of coach pick-up and set-down points.

'At times, there are 100 coaches all trying to pick up groups at the same time. If the group isn't available, they are sent round the houses by traffic wardens on a trip that can take half an hour,' she pointed out.

She said the short-term parking available was inadequate. There were no viable restaurants and no toilet facilities for either drivers or customers. During tours of, for instance, Westminster Abbey, the 1.5 hours the tour takes leaves no time for a driver's statutory break because there are so few parking spots available nearby.

'It has become a tradition to allow photostops on Westminster Bridge,' she said. 'Coaches want to pull up for five minutes for passengers to enjoy the beautiful view. It is one of the main attractions.

'Yet there is no official short-term parking here, and the general approach seems to be 'if you see a traffic warden, don't stop'.'

She praised Hyde Park's pay and display parking, which gives receipts, but said there is no insistence by planners that hotels trying to attract groups provide set-down or pick-up points... though taxis are given a free hand.

Her own guided groups at the Changing of the Guard had proved an 'absolute nightmare,' she said: 'I have to have the group waiting for the coach because it cannot stop for even five minutes. I then have to spot the coach coming from far off to get everyone organised.

'The other day, I was ordered to take the group on to a traffic island to wait. It could have been dangerous. And if the coach is one minute early, it has to set off and go round again.'

Tourists may boycott London

FORMER Bus and Coach Council president Simon Newman warned Minister for Public Transport Roger Freeman that American and Japanese tourists may be the first to stop coming to London if coach travel doesn't improve.

'The incentive travel market encourages the big spenders from the USA,' said the managing director of Armchair Passenger Transport. The groups are picked up by coach from airports with minimal fuss.

'But how can we offer them quality coaching if hotels provide no set-down facility? How on earth can we pick them up again if the coach cannot wait outside of the hotels?

Mr Newman went on to say that new attractions too were not required to provide coach set-down bays: 'I find it amazing that major leisure centres are allowed to be built without any thought.

They are looking for group business, but no council has thought how those groups are going to get there and back.'

At the end of Mr Freeman's tour, Simon Newman said London was way behind



other European cities

We have very few facilities for coaches in London. Yet in other major European cities they have free, designated parking for coaches,' he told Mr Freeman.

It is getting to the point where there is almost no point in the police enforcing the law regarding coach parking. There is nowhere for coaches to park.

We need a central government initiative. I urge the minister to look at all the points we have made and act on

FACT FILE

THE importance of London's tourism trade is underlined by a fact sheet issued by the BCC. Among points made by the BCC are:

• Tourism earned £4.6 billion in London in 1989.

• This figure is expected to reach £5 million during 1990.

• Half of all of London's tourists take at least one bus or coach trip between attractions and venues.

 Overseas tourist coach operators are dropping London from their programmes: too much hassle, too little parking are the reasons.

Coach and bus survey out soon

DEPARTMENT of Transport assistant secretary Peter Butler told operators that a two-year survey of coach and bus traffic in London may be published before the planned meeting in October.

The report - instigated by the Transport Road Research Laboratory but passed to the DTp - was completed by the University College of London in October last year. According to Mr Butler, it was passed back to the authors to iron out 'problems.'

He said work on it had been further slowed by the DTp's comitment to the Red Route scheme proposed by the Government, but that he hoped the revised version would be available before Roger Freeman meets London operators and other coaching interests on October 16.



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1985 SCANIA K112 JONCKHEERE P50, 49 recliners, o/s sunken toilet, o/s centre continental door, driver's bunk, tinted windows, rollo blinds, MoT 1991. Stock No. M102£46,500

1984 SCANIA K112 JONCKHEERE P50, 49/51/53 recliners, o/s sunken toilet, o/s centre continental door, driver's bunk, tinted windows, rollo blinds, MoT 1991. Choice of three. Stock Nos. M104, M105 & M106. £41,500
1983 DAF MB200 DKFL PLAXTON 3200
EXPRESS, 53 seats, ZF automatic gear-box, PA, MoT 30/3/91. Choice of 4. Stock No. M006 £33,000 1983 BOVA EUROPA (DAF 8.25), 44 seats, exterior, blue 77. Choice of 2 Plaxton X'Preexterior, blue

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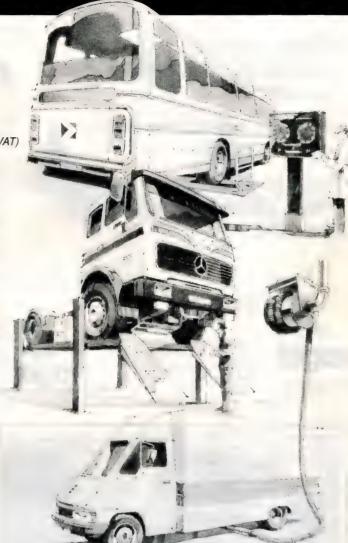
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The EOS: a worthy successor to the Panoramic and a better performer.

AW

The new LAG Eos is winning the hearts and minds of passengers, drivers and operators despite a few teething problems. Rod Davey takes the machine around the standard two-day test route and finds it performs as well as it looks.

AG's Panoramic replacement, not only burns less fuel than its predecessor, it's quicker. When the Belgium LAG Bree board finally put together the successor to for the Panoramic, it named it after the Greek God of Dawn.

And when it dreamed up the marketing slogan 'the dawning of a new era', it meant for the coach - which was intended to take up the vanguard of the top end of the market.

It wasn't referring to the future takeover by bodybuilder Van Hool. However, the new owner is

well enough known in the UK bus and coach industry to be already accredited

with a quality product.

Now the last new Panoramics have been sold, it is as good a time as ever to compare the new with the old and Coachmart was keen to give the vehicle a spin around our standard two-day test route. Having tested the Panoramic earlier this year (Coachmart 577, March 1), and driven the coach on continental tours both to the Rhine Valley and

Bruges in Belgium, I felt qualified to make comparisons.

Build

Differences from the outside are obvious, with the main point being a more futuristic, but dateless, body design. Both are integrally constructed, but the Eos has a higher line than the

COSTS

Price Replacement Costs	£125,000 ex-VAT
Upper windscreen	£1,051.83
Lower windscreen	£1,065.41
Standard side window DE headlight	£758.00 £104.74
Halogen headlight	£23.90
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Panoramic, with a maximum height of 3.75 compared to 3.55 metres. This difference is accentuated with a more visible horizontal split between the upper and lower windscreens using GRP moulding.

Its whole appearance gives the impression that here is a coach with the client firmly in mind.

As far as construction is concerned, the frame is similarly made from mild steel box section which is jig-formed and hand-welded. Again, the whole structure is treated heavily against corrosion and insulated with 35 mm polyurethane wool.

Side panels are made from one-piece Zincor steel, but here is the first micro design change. The formed aluminium side lockers have sensible pantographic doors, increasing the options for loading and unloading luggage in tight spots into the machine's capacious lockers with nearly 12 cubic metres of usable luggage space between the axles. Luggage space on the Panoramic was 8.3 cubic metres.

ROAD TEST

Pantographic opening is also featured on the boot door for routine access to the DAF DKX ATi turbocharged and intercooled 354 bhp engine - with much more wellie than the 290 bhp-rated DKV on the Panoramic. Front and rear body sections are again GRP, as are the wheelarches.

Side windows, made of grey-tinted double-glazed Thermopane, have a unique locating system. It uses the same method as domestic double-glazing and LAG claims it only takes half an hour to replace. The test vehicle specification included full-draw curtains. Laminated front screens are rubber periphery glazed and both feature attractive heavy duty radial-arm wipers.

Finished as usual to LAG's high standards, the £125,000 price tag includes a two-colour paint scheme in

two-pack acrylic.

An extremely good-looking exterior is complemented by the front, which features powerful but unobtrusive exterior lights. Two DE (dynamic energy) and two halogen headlamps, with halogen fog lamps are backed up with reversing and fog lights at the rear. The vehicle also has marker lights both at the front and back.

An unusual feature at the front is a drop-down bumper for access to the vehicle's spare wheel, which is mounted under the driver position. Other features include towing eyes to the front and rear, stainless steel wheel discs, lockable fuel and side lockers, anti-spray wheelarches, four mudflaps and two electricallyheated rear view mirrors.

Although the side panels are one-piece, much of the vehicle's height is taken up with the locker doors, so any accident damage would be comparatively easy to rectify, given these are manufactured from sheet aluminium. Likewise, GRP at



Although its entrance steps are welldesigned, the outward and forward opening of the power doors could cause problems - and the peage is at the wrong height.

the front end and rear make in-house repairs fairly easy.

Passenger comfort

Clients enter through a 830 mm-wide Bode air-operated entrance door which features a double-glazed sliding window. Unfortunately, the window is too low to be used as a peage - and the door opens outwards and forward, providing a formidable obstruction to easy loading. During the test I bumped into it several times, so customers beware.

These two aspects of design mean it is virtually impossible to deal efficiently with continental road toll gates. But LAG says it is looking into this area, and I have no doubt the Belgian manufacturer will come up with a suitable solution.

The centre offside continental door is also a Bode, but is narrower at 810 mm. The rear offside emergency door is quite wide, although partially obstructed by the rear seats, at 840 mm.

There are no foot inserts in the bodywork so if it had to be used in a real emergency a parachute might be a good idea on this high line body.

The driver's cab door, one of the test vehicle's many extra features, is at 810 mm, the same width as the main passenger door.

The saloon floor is flat apart from a dropped ramp for the first few seat rows. It looks as if it would be easy to clean out as does the centre toilet, with a drain plug in the floor.

As well as Taraflex grey carpet to the seats, steps and driver's area, the Eos is fitted with heavy duty Polyrib carpet to the 410 mm-wide aisleway. Creating a nice, luxurious 'holiday feel', the walls and roof are trimmed in moquette to match the 53 Vogel recliners - which are complete with headrests, armrests, ashtrays, glove nets and antimacassars.

Minimum legroom is around 230 mm at this configuration which, at 5 ft 8 in, I found quite comfortable.

Its pleasant passenger environment is further enhanced with an additional plus feature - you actually have room for parcels in the parcel racks. Given they also act as a conduit for the individual blowers and reading lights, they truly deserve a big design plus point.

Passenger plus-points are continued with aids for access, including large diameter handrails optimally placed at the entrance steps, continental door and inside aisle steps. Operators have criticised the centre door configuration for a steep step inside the toilet - and LAG has responded by removing it, although there is a slight trade-off with the centre step layout.

LAG deserves full marks for finding a solution to the adverse comments so quickly.

The centre sunken toilet compartment features an Electramagic recirculating electrically operated system. Within it there is cold running water fed by a floor operated pump to a good sized hand

basin.

Other fitments include a coat hook. toilet roll holder, towel holder and an Apura soap dispenser. Handy for soiled paper towels, there is a chute connecting with the main rubbish chute from the saloon. It is quite roomy, but passengers will have to watch the headroom when getting out.

Drinks machines to the customer's requirements may be fitted on the toilet top. Catering equipment actually fitted to the test vehicle was at the front of the coach. Mounted to the courier courtesy screen was a Frenzel three-tray fridge with a capacity for between 90 and 100 cans.

There is additional storage for cans if the driver's bunk is not being used, with handy access for the courier as it is located forward of the front axle.

Access to the vehicle's batteries is through a hatch underneath the bunk mattress, and may be reached from the outside via the locker door.

Apart from excellent passenger views, due to the split front screen and vehicle height, the test vehicle had excellent oncoach entertainment facilities. A Blaupunkt video machine is sensibly located in the courier's fascia locker, linked to two monitors at the front and centre

Audio equipment is to an equally high standard - the vehicle is fitted with a Blaupunkt Oslo radio/PA/cassette complete with a station search facility. It is linked to a driver's microphone and a courier one with wanderlead in the centre of the fascia.

Driving

Coupled with an adjustable steering wheel, the driver's suspended

Specification

LAG Eos integral 53-seater coach

Engine: DAF DKX ATi rear mounted vertical in-line turbocharged and

intercooled

354 bhp (260kW) @ 2,200 rpm Power: Torque: 970 lbf ft (1,315Nm) @ 1,250

Capacity: 11.6 litres

Steering:

Axles:

ZF 7S 7-speed synchromesh Gearbox:

gearbox.

Clutch: Fitchel & Sachs single dry plate; diameter 420 mm; operation air-

assisted hydraulic ZF power-assisted with

adjustable steering column Brakes: Front discs; rear drum

Retarder: ZF hydraulic integral with sixstage hand control

Suspension: Full air system with ferry lift Front 6,500kg max load

Rear ZF A 130 S9, max load 11,500kg

Speed limiter: Lucas 'Groenveld'

Michelin 295/80 x 11R 22.5 x Tyres:

Isringhausen seat was extremely comfortable and was fitted with a head restraint.

Although the driver's door is undoubtedly a plus, preventing the driver breaking his neck using the high rear exit when parking up for the night, it has resulted in an awkward handbrake position. It is positioned well back on the left hand side, but other controls are generally well placed.

Although the fascia is laid out symmetrically, I did not like the way it's finished. It is commendably designed to be flush, and appears easy to wipe clean, although it doesn't quite make it because of the way it is edged.

Instrumentation is well laid out and easily seen from the driver's position.

All in all it's quite a complex cab environment. Necessarily so given the ammount of goodies packed into the vehicle's specification. Even so, standard stem functions have been simply compressed into a single stem on the left hand side of the steering column.

And under the main fascia are separate heater and ventilation controls for the driver and courier areas, together with Blaupunkt audio/video controls, ignition and cigarette lighter.

Foot controls were all well-positioned and easy to use. Visibility from the driver's seat was also generally good, although the low driving position meant that the courier's aid may often be needed when negotiating sharp junctions or any manoeuvre requiring a good nearside view. Fortunately, throughout the two day test I had LAG salesman Malcolm Watkins both as courier and support driver.

Another criticism concerned the driver's sun protection, which, like the courier side, is a half-windscreen roller blind. Unfortunately, the driver has to park the machine up before he can legally operate it - otherwise it's possible you may spot an Eos driver doing 70 mph down the M1 while standing up.

However, I was told LAG is now



Cab layout is a definite improvement on the Panoramic, although the driver's door means the handbrake is awkwardly placed on the left.

considering fitting an electric control to future models.

Despite such observations, the Eos is generally a vast improvement on the Panoramic regarding driver comfort. The new adjustable steering wheel means the all-important rev counter on a rearengined coach need never be obscured and LAG appears to have improved the colour-coding too. In combination with this new adjustment, a head restraint means there's no pain in the neck.

Another improvement on the Panoramic relates to the location of the six-stage hand control for the ZF integral retarder, which is nicely clear of the steering wheel on the right hand side. The Panoramic's Telma Focal F190 control was on the left in a crowded area

of the fascia - its proximity to the steering wheel meant it could easily be switched on accidentally.

Performance

I have often referred to a spongy ride when unloaded, but air-suspension is often set for the passenger load.

Apart from the occasional in-service road test, most tests are unloaded. So when I say the Eos ride appeared a little bouncy, please bear this in mind. However, although longitudinal pitch was apparent, there was little roll, even when cornering at speed.

When cornering, the vehicle's ZF power-assisted steering gear was both firm and positive. Perhaps a little bit on the light side for good 'road feel' - but there was no road vibration which was good for comfort.

Braking was very responsive - with the vehicle slowing down in a nice

Performance:

Performance:			
Acceleration:			
0-30 mph 0-40 mph 0-50 mph 0-60 mph 0-70 mph	12 seconds 18 seconds 24 seconds 32 seconds 39 seconds		
In top gear -			
30-50 mph 50-70 mph	32 seconds 25 seconds		
RPM @ speeds in top gear -			
30 mph 40 mph 50 mph 60 mph 70 mph	700 rpm 900 rpm 1,200 rpm 1,500 rpm 1,800 rpm		

Fuel Economy:

Route: Standard two-day Coachmart test route.

Note: Odometer jammed after trunk road section therefore distances quoted (in brackets) are approximate and based on previous tests over the standard route. Distance for cross country section is same as Carrosserie Lorraine test with same overnight stop in Skipton. Motorway section distance is same as MAN 10.180/Jonckheere Deauville with 11 miles added for distance between Brackmills

and Finedon.

Fill at	Fuel Used ltrs/gals	Odometer reading	Distance km/miles	MPG
Trunk Road Section Finedon to Bramham	49.91/10.98	471.6 650.3	178.7/111.04	10.12
Cross Country Section Bramham to M61 Kenning	0.8/17.59		(258.1)/(160.38)	9.12
Motorway Section M61 Kenning to Finedon	66.0/14.51		(317.0)/(197.00)	13.58
AVERAGE	195.91/43.08	-	(753.8)/(468.42)	10.87

ROAD TEST

straight line and no pulling to either side. Its ZF integral retarder was excellent, both on the Yorkshire Wolds in the cross country section and on the Pennine gradients on the M62.

Criticisms include the observation it is not as effective at speeds below 30 mph, but this is not too much of a worry at slow speeds. However, why have six stages on a retarder control when half as many will do?

Acceleration was understandably good, given the machine's turbocharged and intercooled direct-injection 354 bhp DAF DKV ATi engine. And there's plenty of torque there, with no less than 970 lbf ft, to pull the machine up the hills.

In what must be one of the best road test results, the Eos climbed the gruelling climb of Garrowby Hill in the Yorkshire Wolds in fourth gear with the revs showing 1,900 rpm at 30 mph. The following hill at Fimber was achieved in

Operators' Views:

'A beautiful vehicle which is ahead of its time loved by passengers and most of our drivers," said Ted Andrews, operations assistant with Essex-based Supreme, now running four.

But there have been teething problems with the new marque. 'We have been unable to switch off the heating on the AAC system, with the heating coming through the ducting and overcoming the forced air ventilation. Electrical gauges are not working properly. There's lots of silly little problems on all four, but nothing that can't be sorted out,' he said.

John Jones, proprietor of Stratos Holidays based at Newtown in Powys, said: 'I am very pleased. There have been minor problems, such as the setting of the continental door requiring adjustment so it would close properly. In fact we've been running the vehicle non-stop and are getting 10.3 mpg. The air-conditioning is working perfectly.

'It's just returned from Italy, and according to passengers' comments on our forms they're over the moon with the vehicle. We sold a Duple 425, which had ventilation problems, to buy the

Running two Eos coaches, Clevedon Motorways has experienced 10 days downtime with vehciles at Wellingborough. But proprietor Richard Langson said he was otherwise happy, with fuel economy at around 11 mpg running at 110 km/hr on the European mainland. 'Half the faults were electrical, including problems with the fascia gauges and air conditioning. The other half were body faults, with slow operation of the passenger doors.

'A few teething problems - but nothing unexpected with a new model,' said Eddie Tweddle, transport manager with County Durham-based Stirk Travel. 'LAG back-up is excellent and nothing is too much trouble for them,' he added.

Problems have included a leaking windscreen, ill-fitting continental door and punctures on the inner rear wheels due to the use of brass valves - all now attended to by LAG. Achieving 10-13 mpg, Stirk's Eos has been driven for 60,000 miles - and has been to Sorrento, Germany and three times to Spain.

the same gear at 35 mph, which is quite a performance.

By comparison, the Panoramic caused me some strife on hills, particularly near Rudesheim in the Rhine Valley. Although stalling, the problem was initially caused by a tight third gear, having to change down was due to a rapid fall in revs. I had no such problems with the Eos.

Power was plentiful, as the acceleration figures show. Up to the PSV maximum limit the machine was tested on the flat plains of York, higher speeds were tested

on motorway sections.

Although in the lower range, acceleration was roughly comparable with other coach marques (see table), the maximum limit was reached in approximately 39 seconds, a full 10 seconds less than the Panoramic . And like the Panoramic the machine picks up well in top gear, reaching the maximum from 30 mph in less than a minute.

Such high performance not only excels Coachmart's figures for the Panoramic's acceleration test - but it is better for the more important item of fuel economy.

For a quick comparison, overall figures for the Eos, with an unladen weight of 12,340 kg, were 10.87 mpg, whereas the Panoramic only achieved 9.08 mpg with a lighter weight of 11,900 kg.

The Eos beats the Panoramic in most test sections. On trunk roads the Panoramic did 7.82 mpg, whereas the Eos worked out at 10.12 mpg. Cross country the Eos did not match the Panoramic figure of 9.62 mpg, but was not far off at 9.12. On the motorway, LAG's latest baby

excelled, with a magnificent 13.85 mpg totally drubbing the Panoramic's 10.14.

However, I must add distances, as the table shows, were estimated from previous test distances due to an odometer fault. But I am confident such distances are within a few miles. Certainly, the comparitive margin between the two LAG margues shows fuel consumption has been improved both positively and absolutely.

Verdict

Not a cheap machine at £125,000 ex-VAT, but it is not competing with the more down-market marques. The LAG Eos is designed for special clients and special work, especially up-market continental touring.

Although there have been some teething problems following its launch (see operators' views panel), all have been happy with the way LAG's back-up service has dealt with them. I am sure such problems will rapidly fade into the distance as the Eos establishes itself on the British market.

More positively, the Eos is definitely a big improvement on the Panoramic, with most of my criticisms regarding cab design and driveability attended to.

It is also a better performer, with better fuel consumption thrown in for good measure.

If you're already into the high class touring market, or just thinking about it, give LAG UK managing director Vernon Edwards a ring.

AT A GLANCE

Ride Quality - Minimal roll but a little pitch. Slightly on the spongy side - but can be adjusted. Excellent Isringhausen hydraulic seat ironed out the bumps for the driver. Adequate room for passengers of average frame - 53 seat configuration, with foot rests, arranged optimally.

Steering - Firm and positive - adjustable for optimal driver comfort. A little bit light for good road feel, on the other hand there was no road vibration.

Braking - Very responsive, in a straight line with no pulling to neither side. ZF integral retarder worked well, apart from speeds lower than 30 mph, on both Yorkshire Wolds and Trans-Pennine road on cross country section. But are six stages really necessary on retarder?

Noise - Quiet rear engine, so driving to rev counter is essential. Definitely not excessive for a 354 bhp

Luggage - There is 11.9 cubic metres of luggage space between the axles through large pantograph locker doors. Ski lockers are located over rear axles on both sides. If specified without continental door and steps, luggage capacity is increased to 13.8 cubic metres. Luggage area is heated to saloon temperature and pressurised to prevent water ingress. All lockers have lights when main vehicle lights

Security - All doors are lockable, but there is only one way in - through the driver's door, which locks from the outside, on the offside. Blaupunkt video player in courier locker can be easily removed on overnights. Additionally, Blaupunkt TV monitors are mounted on a click-release mechanism and may also be removed for overnight security.

Heating - LAG AAC (active air control) with four floor heaters which are electronically controlled. Ventilation by air jet with airflow-control. AAC is automatical, but there is a manual over ride on left hand driver's panel in case the system breaks down. Hot/cold setting is only control in normal use. Webasto pre-heater with electronic timer.

Ventilation - Two fresh air filters, two roof extractors and two roof hatches. Front screen top and bottom demist. Front heating for driver and courier with ventilation.

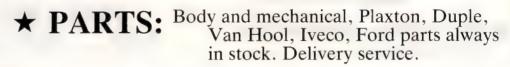
Lighting - Saloon lighting with dim facility (green) strip light either side of roof centre panel. Automatic step lights. Personal lights for driver and courier. Individual reading lights and blowers fitted to overhead racks.

Handrails and guards - Large diameter handrails optimally placed at entrance steps and inside aisle steps. Also good handrails to continental door. Original launch design has been improved with centre-step configuration altered at the lower floor level - there is now no awkward step inside toilet. Grab handles on all aisle seats.

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Weekly report on law and the coach operator By Michael Jewell

Commissioner warns company over maintenance problems



A SCOTTISH company has been given a formal warning over the maintenance of

its vehicles and warned that further problems would have a serious affect on its licence and drivers' jobs.

A disciplinary hearing heard that one of its vehicles was given an immediate prohibition notice for three defects during an inspection which revealed that five out of ten wheelnuts on a front wheel were loose.

Scottish traffic commissioner Keith Waterworth said it appeared problems had arisen at Wm Stewart (Motors) Ltd, of Dalkeith, because the company's operations had gained the 'whip hand' over the maintenance of its vehicles.

But Mr Waterworth decided to take no action against the company's 10 vehicle PSV operator's licence.

■LEGAL NEWS

■ A SEMINAR dealing with the fire risks of vehicles will be held next year in Cheltenham.

The event - organised by Gloucestershire Fire Liaison Panel was originally due to be held next month during National Fire Safety Week but has now been rescheduled for April 26, 1991.

The programme will deal with the causes of vehicle fires, the effect on life/limb and property, the steps being taken to reduce the problem, the latest technology on extinguishment and practical advice on dealing with fires. Further details of the timing, venue and cost can be obtained by contacting fire divisional officer Keith Martin, c/o Gloucester Fire & Rescue Service, Keynsham Road, Cheltenham GL53 7PY (Tel:0242 51 2041).

■ MINISTERS have put up tachograph calibration fees.

The new charges, introduced on September 3, are £30.60 plus VAT for the six yearly calibration and £19.50 plus VAT for the two yearly inspection.

Mr George Syderserff, Edinburgh operations manager of the DTp's vehicle inspectorate, said the company's licence had been renewed in 1988, despite the issue of two immediate prohibitions during a maintenance investigation in June of that year.

A vehicle inspection revealed 11 defects – eight dangerous.

In November 1989 a vehicle was given an immediate prohibition endorsed 'neglect' for 11 defects, eight of which were immediately dangerous.

The records indicated that the vehicle had been inspected by the company nine days previously and none of the defects had been noted. In February another vehicle was given an immediate prohibition marked 'neglect.'

That vehicle had last been inspected six weeks previously, though the declared interval between inspections was four weeks.

On August 21, a vehicle was given an immediate prohibition for three defects, endorsed 'neglect.' It was then that five out of the ten wheelnuts on the nearside front wheel were found to be loose.

It would appear the company's maintenance was not up to the required standard and that the driver defect reporting system was not being enforced, said Mr Syderserff.

Since 1986, 22 prohibition notices had been imposed on the company's vehicles and it had been sent a warning letter in March 1987.

Questioned by Miss June Ralston for the company, Mr Syderserff said some of the defects should have been obvious to the drivers.

He agreed the company had adequate workshop facilities and he accepted that the repairs carried out after the issue of the prohibitions had been satisfactory.

He said what was worrying,

was not so much the number of prohibitions as their content, and the fact that the majority of the ones endorsed 'neglect' had occurred recently.

After Miss Ralston pointed out that eight of the company's 12 vehicles had passed their annual tests the first time, Mr Syderserff said that was not an exceptional record for annual testing.

He suggested that perhaps the operational aspects were taking precedence over maintenance, and Mr Waterworth commented that operations should be around the maintenance and not the other way round.

The company's senior mechanic, Mr Charles Freeland said that when he joined Stewart's two to three months ago from Eastern Scottish he had found two or three faults on the buses that ought not to have been there.

He had discussed with management a system whereby the drivers checked the buses each morning and signed them off, and he was currently working on a draft checklist for the drivers.

The age of the vehicles created more servicing problems than would be the case with a more modern fleet.

In reply to Mr Waterworth, Mr Freeland said he was in charge of the inspections and it was his responsibility to decide whether a vehicle should go on to the road or

Mr Waterworth said the company needed to write to its drivers, pointing out a failure to properly implement the defect reporting system could put the future of the company in question.

It had to be made clear to drivers that defect reporting was not just another administrative burden.

Managing director Mr
Robert Stewart said changes
in staff had led to problems.
In addition to Mr Freeland,
there was another skilled
mechanic and an apprentice,
and if necessary, assistance
was available from staff

employed on the repair side of the business.

He proposed giving Mr
Freeland a written contract of
employment, setting out what
his responsibilities were and
where they ended. There was
a greater degree of
communication since Mr
Freeland joined the company,
and he discussed the
maintenance situation with
him every morning.

It would be made part of the drivers' conditions of employment to hand in daily defect reports. Their responsibilities would be pointed out to them in writing.

He regarded the drivers as part of the team. They were not just there to drive the coaches, they were part of the operation of the company.

Unfortunately, when the vehicle examiners came they tended to choose the older vehicles to inspect, said Mr Stewart. One problem was a lack of contact between operators and vehicle examiners.

Company to carry out random vehicle tests between inspections.

There seemed to be some sort of fear on the part of operators, but surely they and the vehicle examiners were working towards the same end.

In the future, the company's mechanics would carry out random checks on vehicles in between inspections and it was the intention to purchase a PSV Tester's Manual and other vehicle inspectorate publications to ensure they were all working to the same standard.

Mr Waterworth said the company had to be flexible and not just stick to the laid down inspection interval of four weeks. If a particular vehicle was constantly throwing up faults, he hoped the company would be flexible enough to spend more time on that vehicle.

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Weekly report on law and the coach operator By Michael Jewell

Mr Stewart said his was one of the few companies in the area that had got involved in deregulation in 1986 and it was currently serving the local community using four to five vehicles. The balance of the coaches were used for many things, but principally local work in the Dalkeith area.

Arguing that it was not a particularly bad record overall, Miss Ralston said that there was a reasonable ratio of maintenance staff to vehicles.

The prohibition notices had averaged 3.3 defects, so the notice listing 11 items was not indicative of the company's maintenance standards.

The need to improve standards had been recognised last year, and steps had been taken to try and rectify the situation. This was the first public inquiry the company had been called to and it could not be described as a catalogue of wilful neglect.

Mr Waterworth said he took account of the fact that the company had been operating since 1920 and that Mr Stewart had been personally involved with it for more than 20 years.

He warned it was essential

to ensure that inspection periods were not missed, saying that the inspection of vehicles on time was crucial to the company retaining its licence.

He felt the company had accepted that supervision had been inadequate, partly due to the turnover in mechanics.

Emphasising the need to indicate in writing exactly what Mr Freeland's responsibilities were, Mr Waterworth said that often in small companies it was all done by word of mouth, and nobody, even in the company, was quite certain who was responsible for what.

Mr Waterworth said further maintenance failure would have serious implications for the company's licence and the jobs of the drivers.

The vehicle inspectorate were there to give advice and there should be no fear of them on the part of operators.

He was pleased to see that Mr Stewart was taking a more active role on the maintenance side. The company had to ensure that its record, which was looking poor, did not turn into a very poor record resulting in action being taken against its licence.

Steed's needs contract



MAYNARD and Gladys Steed - trading as Steed's Minicoaches, of Haverhill - have been stopped from using three of their coaches.

Eastern traffic commissioner Brigadier Compton Boyd has imposed a condition on their licence that their two 45 seater coaches and one

29 seater coach should not be used on the road until he has received a satisfactory maintenance contract for the vehicles.

The partners appeared at a Cambridge public inquiry in the light of their maintenance record and Brigadier Boyd lifted a condition on the licence restricting the size of vehicles to be operated to 45 seaters, replacing it with a condition restricting their size to single deckers.

He also cut the duration of the licence so that it now expires at the end of July 1991.

Fleet inspection must be carried out



NORTH Eastern deputy traffic commissioner Mr Brian Horner has

ordered a full inspection and maintenance investigation be carried out on a company's fleet over the next 12 months.

He decided to take no action against the PSV operator's licence held by Mr Barry Patterson - trading as Barrie Patterson Executive Travel, of Seahouses, Northumberland but issued a warning about future maintenance standards.

The ruling was made at a disciplinary inquiry in Newcastle following an

unsatisfactory maintenance report.

Licence application is rejected



SOUTH
Eastern
traffic
commissioner
Brigadier
Michael

Turner has turned down Southampton-based Peak Tour's application for a new national licence authorising four vehicles on the grounds that the company does not satisfy the requirement of being of good repute.

Test scrapped after discovery of dangerous defects



A VEHICLE submitted for its annual test was in such poor condition that the test could

not be completed - a public inquiry has heard.

The vehicle - operated by Mr Michael Jones - was given an immediate prohibition endorsed 'neglect' for nine defects, five of which were dangerous.

Mr Jones, who holds a licence for 12 vehicles and trades as Llansilin Motor Services, of Llansilin, near Oswestry, was given a severe warning over his maintenance standards, by North Western deputy traffic commissioner Mr Kenneth Birchall.

DTp vehicle examiner Mr Roger Byron said as a consequence of the test a fleet inspection was carried out in May.

He examined seven vehicles, issuing one immediate and four delayed prohibitions. The vehicle given the immediate prohibition had just come off

service and clearly should not have been in use.

Mr Byron said maintenance was carried out by Mr Jones' son Paul, who was only semiskilled. He had also lost his driving licence, making it difficult to road test vehicles.

The facilities were adequate but were not always put to their best use because of parked vehicles. Drivers were reporting defects verbally.

He concluded the firm could not maintain the number of vehicles on its licence in a roadworthy condition.

Mr Michael Jones said he had been operating coaches for 14 years. He disagreed that he had not got room to use the maintenance equipment properly.

He currently had 15 vehicles in possession, but had been trying to sell three vehicles since September.

It was not disputed that the vehicle at annual test had been in no condition to be presented. It should not have gone. There had been a bit of a mix-up and it had been confused with

another vehicle.

He had suffered a problem over drivers using the defect book. However, he had never had a complaint from the public and none of his vehicles had ever been in an accident caused by their mechanical condition.

Mr Jones said he employed a skilled fitter/driver and two semi-skilled fitters/drivers. He was advertising for another mechanic, but Llansilin was a very remote area, seven miles from Oswestry.

In the future, he would use a chart to plan the inspections ahead and driver defect report pads would be introduced. If the number of vehicles authorised was reduced it would destroy the business financially.

After Mr Birchall said Mr Jones seemed to have experienced problems when he submitted vehicles to the test station, Mr Jones said he had experienced problems with a neighbour, who cut off his water for a month preventing the vehicles being washed off.

Mr Jones said virtually everything he operated was on a local service basis, with schools services picking up passengers. He felt he had got adequate skilled maintenance staff. He could not really say why the problems had arisen, but something had gone wrong.

The company had difficulty getting staff because of its location. His son was the only full time employee solely on the mechanical side.

Mr Paul Jones, who is aged 20, had no qualifications, having left technical college early. The annual test incident had probably been his fault.

For Mr Jones, Mr Robert Warnock said the facilities and the ratio of staff appeared to be adequate, and that was evidenced by the fact that Mr Jones had run the business successfully for 14 years.

Mr Birchall said it was likely the proposed system would avoid these sort of problems in the future. He warned, however, that if there was any repetition, there would be a much more serious outcome. New deals, discounts, attractions, tips...New deals, discounts, attractions, tips...



Elizabeth Mansfield: starring as stage star Marie Llovd.

Stage a trip back in time

OPERATORS now have the chance of reliving the bygone days of the British music hall.

Companies are being urged to organise a trip to London's West End to see a new show entitled Marie Lloyd - Queen Of The Halls.

The acclaimed onewoman show - starring Elizabeth Mansfield depicts the life of the old entertainer.

The late night Saturday/Sunday matinee play with music opens on September 29.

It is ideal for operators looking for a Sunday afternoon activity and tickets are now on sale from the Fortune Theatre priced £5, £7.50 and £10 with groups of 20 or more getting £1 off per ticket. Show times are 11pm, Saturday and 4pm, Sunday.

Also Stage By Stage is offering a special 'Sunday Theatreland Coach Tour' for the special price of £125 per coach.

The tour lasts one hour and includes 300 years of London's rich and vibrant theatre history.

Plus, Stage By Stage offers a special 'Double Bill' - priced £250 - which includes the tour and up to two half-hour backstage tours of the Fortune Theatre per Sunday. It may also be possible for groups to meet Elizabeth Mansfield. Ring Stage By Stage on 071 328 7558.

Bargain overseas trips now on offer

NORMAN Allen Group Travel has some new tour offers for coach operators... with prices starting at just over £50.

The tour operator and handling agent has just announced its 1991 brochure which includes information of tours to 15 countries, dozens of hotels, sample itineraries and prices.

Of special interest are details of the first ever tours to the Arctic Circle and a special package to Vienna and Salzburg.

The latter is sure to be of interest to operators keen to tie-in tours to coincide with celebrations in those cities to mark Mozart's bicentenary next year.

Packages are available from £52 for a weekend in Ostend to just over £300 for a 12 day tour to Norway and the Arctic Circle. However, all tours are catered to the client's exact requirements.

Being launched shortly after a few years absence, will be a supplementary insert on tours of Great Britain and Ireland which will complement the brochure.

As an extra bonus, coach operators can now call the Norman Allen Group Travel sales department completely FREE by using the linkline number 0800 262 273.

Sub gets teeth into problem

A MINI submarine has carried out work on one of Britain's top tourist attractions.

The remote control, camerafitted sub was used by Great Yarmouth's Sea Life Centre to check its shark-filled fish

The examination was needed to discover if the two-month-old attraction was in good condition.

Officials wanted to see if there was any contamination and if sharks had created any rough edges as they carried out their daily routine.

Not surprisingly, there was a distinct lack of volunteers to do the work and so marine biologists called in Great Yarmouth-based sub-sea specialist OSEL which concentrates on offshore gas and oil work.

The inspection confirmed that everything was in A1 order.

Sea Life Centre senior biologist Doctor Ben Bestwick said: 'The clarity of the pictures meant we could see everything in detail. It's helped us enormously.'

OSEL's sales manager Ray Ward said the project was one of the company's more unusual tasks! 'I only wish the North Sea had such good visibility,' he added. You can contact Great Yarmouth Sea Life Centre on 0493 330631.

Eurolines reports Brittany boom

EUROLINES (UK) Ltd - the European division of National Express - has boosted ticket sales with Brittany Ferries' cross-channel services to northern France and northern Spain by 100 percent.

John Gilbert, Eurolines general manager, said: 'We are obviously delighted with the success of the programme. St Malmo has emerged the number one favourite, with fares starting at just £44.50 youth return from London.'

New London guide

TRAVEL Trade London 1991 is a new guide to facilities and services in London for the travel industry.

Published by the London Tourist Board, it is available free to coach operators and tour organisers.

The guide includes information on anything from accommodation and transport to tourist attractions and eating out in London, and also suggests unusual itineraries and new ideas.

LTB head of marketing Catriona Campbell said: 'I am very pleased with this year's redesigned issue. It should prove an invaluable tool to anyone working in the travel industry.'

More than 25,000 copies of the guide will be distributed in over 20 countries this year. To obtain a copy, contact the correspondence department at the London Tourist Board, 26 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DU. Tel: 071 730 3450 extension 230.

Efteling is a winner

THE SENCICLE family from Kent have enjoyed a great day out at Holland's Efteling leisure park - after winning a competition organised by the Port of Dover and BBC Radio Kent

Lorraine Sencicle chose to visit Efteling from any of the continental theme parks featured in the Port of Dover guide after successfully answering questions about the port in a radio quiz.

Also included was the ferry crossing for the family and their car and £100 spending money.



The Sencicle family celebrate at Efteling with the park's managing director Paul Beck (right).

BLACKPOOL

WELLINGTON HOUSE HOLD STREET BLACKPOOL (1 minute from Central Pier) (0253) 28070

(0253) 28070

This friendly hotel offers 26 bedrooms (some en suite). Colour TV, tea/coffee making facilities in all rooms.

Bring your party to our party. Entertainment nightly. Late late bar. Excellent menu. Fancy dress with prizes.

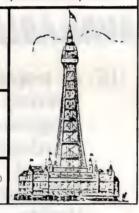
WINTER WEEKENDS

November and December Pre-Christmas Gala Inclusive 7 course candlelit dinner and disco/cabaret. £32.00 inclusive Friday-Saturday

Taking bookings for Christmas and New Year

(Sorry – Illuminations fully booked)

COACH ORGANISER STAYS FREE!



ARGOSY HOTEL

30 BALMORAL ROAD BLACKPOOL FY4 1HR Telephone (0253) 41896

Situated next to the Pleasure Beach, this friendly family run licensed establishment offers weekly cabaret and telephones, TVs and tea making facilities in all rooms.

> **NOW TAKING 1991 BOOKINGS**

Minimum group size to allow free place for driver/courier 40 (13665/HO)

ISLE OF WIGHT

QUEENSMEAD HOTEL SHANKLIN, IoW **WELCOMES COACHES**

This luxury hotel has 31 en-suite rooms all with colour TV, tea/coffee facilities, heated outdoor pool, live entertainment choice of a fine menu.

1991 DATES AND **TARIFF NOW** AVAILABLE

for details contact (0983) 862342

PROPERTY SERVICES

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TENBY

Warm comfortable, good food, nightly entertainment, all rooms with colour TV, tea coffee making facilities.

> 4 nights £68.50 Half board, private bathroom

> > Tel. Tenby (0834) 2377

at the Belgrave Hotel and ask for **OCTOBER/NOVEMBER Special Breaks**

7 course Gala Dinner and Dance every Wednesday

Ring now for 1991

(13689/HO)

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Kingsley Hotel

MARINE PARADE EAST, CLACTON-ON-SEA, ESSEX CO15 1PT TELEPHONE (0255) 423158

- Open all year for tours * Coach Parking
- ★ 32 rooms, some en suite ★ 4 ground floor rooms
- Tea/Coffee making facilities
- Licensed Bar

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1991 BOOKINGS

CALL MR BAKER

Tel: (0723) 376576

- Lunchtime Snacks available Lounge and TV Lounge
- ★ 1 person free, party over 50 ★ Driver/courier free, party 50+
- ★ Garden ★ Sea Views
- * Entertainment programme
- ★ Facilities for the disabled
- ★ Choice of menus

Now taking 1991 bookings

Coach operators call Mrs Gilbert now to discuss requirements

(13690/HQ)

SCARBOROUGH

Brooklands Hotel

Overlooking South Cliff gardens, South Bay and Spa Theatre and close to the cliff lift. All 61 bedrooms have colour TV, radio, telephone and

All 61 bedrooms have colour TV, radio, telephone and tea/coffee maker. Most are en suite.

Spacious dining room, lounges, bar, games room and cocktail lounge, with dancing a highlight in the "Regency" ballroom on Thursday & Saturday nights

* Double, twin & singles

* Adj. coach parking

* Sea views

* Lift to all floors

* Central heating

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(13691/HO

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14 rooms all have colour TVs and tea making facilities, some en suite.

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PARTIES OVER 18 – DRIVER FREE
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(13683/HO)

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Has vacancies for October Please enquire for dates.

- Can accommodate 50 guests
 - Mostly en suite rooms
- Excellent location near town centre
 - Superb English cooking
 - TV lounge BarOutdoor swimming pool
 - Sauna
 Enquiries for 1990/91 brochures invited
 For rates and more information

For rates and more information Tel. 0326 312108

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THE CHERRINGTON

is a family run Hotel.

In walking distance of Fistral and Crantock Beach.

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TORBA'

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Midweek, winter and weekend breaks.

Coaches welcome - driver free. Reduction to coach parties.

Phone Mathew on 0803 553238 anytime Winter breaks a speciality

(13668/HO)



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(12878/HO)

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Dauphines

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- ★ Changing designs of wedding dresses

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Mediaeval banquets for pre-booked parties of 50 or more · House open to visitors (extra admission)
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Toilet facilities for the disabled

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ENQUIRIES:

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Telephone: 0803 605440

This family run hotel has 26 rooms, all en suite, overlooking seafront. All rooms with tea/coffee making facilities, colour televisions and direct dial telephones.

Entertainment within hotel twice weekly. Heated swimming pool.

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(9183/HO)

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* Lift to all floors * 50 bedrooms * 32 with private facilities *

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COACHES! Our friendly family hotel has 50 cn

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This delightful hotel offers ample coach parking ◆ 43 bedrooms (37 en suite), 11 apartments
 ◆ All rooms with colour TV ◆ Tea/coffee making facilities

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 - Coach driver free.

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Copy deadline: 1pm Tuesday for Thursday's issue. Cancellation deadline: 11am Tuesday.

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55 retrimmed seats, curtains, stereo, side lockers, painted white, new engine 40k ago, many spares, immaculate, photos available.

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52 seats, taxed and tested, good condition.

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53 seats, semi auto, power door, tested until January 1990 and taxed, good condition.

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35 seater for sale, registered August 1982, tested April 1991.

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45 SEATER BEDFORD PLAXTON 466

Power door, new 12 months MoT, Bristol dome, very good condition.

£2,500 ono 1973 53 SEATER BEDFORD

PLAXTON 500
Blue Series engine, Express

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/12655/PE\

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NEW ENGINE JUST FITTED

53 seater, MoT to April 1991, taxed, used daily, clean, tidy machine.

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MERCURY COACHES 0202 394283/579592

(13822/

BEDFORD 1978,

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All well maintained, good clean condition.

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MoT April 1990.

£7,500 ono

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1976 BEDFORD PLAXTON SUPREME, 53 seats, MoT

April '91. **£3,750**

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WOULD CONSIDER EXCHANGE FOR SMALLER VEHICLE

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53 seats, MoT June 1991, clean tidy machine, very reliable contract motor.

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23281

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21/22 SEATER MERCEDES taken in part exchange against any one of the above up to £10,000 in value with cash adjustment.

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53 seater, very clean condition, MoT May 1991

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29 seater, very good condition, MoT November 1990, new front tyres, owner driver.

> £4,000 ono Telephone: 0922 685246 **West Midlands**

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53 seats, recent engine, overhaul, clutch and brake, very good condition, MoT due 1991.

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10 mtr, 1985, Plaxton Paramount bodywork fitted with 38 reclining seats, Telma retarder, fitted to high spec.

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11mtr, 53 seats, side lockers, radio/pa, gangway armrests, driver's fan, owned by us from new, superb vehicle, speed limiter fitted and calibrated, MoT March 1991, must sell before new vehicle arrives.

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53 seat, MoT until May 1991, good condition.

£2.500 + VAT ono 1974 PLAXTON YRQ

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53 red moquette seats, power door, Bristol dome, new MoT, radio.

£10,000 plus VAT

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Taxed and tested January 1991. Converted for driver training.

> £3,000 ono for quick sale

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1981 BOVA **EUROPA £26.000**

1983 BOVA EUROPA £28,000

Each with 53 reclining seats, in good condition and both with current MoTs. Will exchange for older vehicle.

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Plaxton Supreme IV, 57 seater, tinted windows, curtains, MoT.

£17,500 + VAT

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53 recliners, curtains, radio, PA, very clean reliable vehicle, owned by us from new.

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Would consider cheap part-exchange

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One - Aug '88 Plaxton, MoT Aug '91

Two - Mar '89 Duple, MoT Mar '91

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£59,500 each + VAT **CLARKES COACHES** (0788) 832288

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1977 PLAXTON SUPREME III. 53 seater. £3,750 + VAT.

All vehicles are in good condition and have many extras.

No reasonable offers refused.

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1981 PLAXTON SUPREME. 53 seater, tinted windows,

air door, new engine fitted, 12 months, MoT......£8,500 ono

PLAXTON ELITE. Ex Isle of Wight. Outstanding for year, 53 seater.£2,650 ono

TEL 061-477 3325 anytime

1978 FORD 16-seater, £1,750 1980 FORD 16-seater, £2,000 Both with new test certifical 1978 FORD DUPLE DOMINANTS, choice of two, £5,000 each ALL PLUS VAT PHONE 081-361 1934

FORD

1980 V REG FORD/PLAXTON.

Choice of two.

R1014

· With Supreme IV recliners, curtains, Eberspacher, MoT November 1990.

R1114

With Supreme IV, 45 reclining seats, MoT April 1991.

Both vehicles maintained from new. FULL SERVICE HISTORY.

£6.500 ono + VAT each

WESTBUS (UK) LTD Telephone: (0233) 636001 (13696/FO)

1979

FORD 53 SEATER PLAXTON COACH

MoT February 1991.

£5,750 ono

Telephone: KINGHAMS TOURS LTD. Tiverton, Devon. 0884 252373

(13821/FO)

1978 FORD 53-seater Coach

MoT January 1991, MUST BE SEEN, only

£4,000 ono + VAT

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IVECO

FREG

IVECO DAILY TURBO 49.10

21 seats, full soft trim, tinted windows etc, genuinely mint condition.

Bargain first

£13,995 + VAT Sunderland 091 536 5656

(13687/IV)

SREG

FORD R1114 PLAXTON SUPREME MARK IV FRONT

Side lockers, power door, radio, taxed 6 months, MoT November 1991.

£5,000 + VAT

Tel: 0934 833177

JONCKHEERE

1985 **JONCKHEERE** P599 SCANIA K112

51 seats, full executive, all usual Jonckheere extras, very good condition.

First to see will buy

£52,500 + VAT ono

Tel. Phillip Groom 071-638 5700/0293 565588 (13814/VO)

LEYLAND

1983 LEYLAND ROYAL TIGER DOYEN,

44 seats, fitted with toilet and servery, Leyland TL11 engine, finished in all over red, MoT test to October 1991. Offers invited. Box No: 13512, Coach-mart, Wentworth House, Wentworth Street, Peterborough PE1 1DS.

LEYLAND

RE-ADVERTISED DUE TO TIME-WASTERS

Must be the Bargain of the Season.

Space needed

1980 LEYLAND **LEOPARD** DOMINANT II

New MoT, exterior white, s/auto, Telma, recent retrim.

£11,500

First to see will buy

Tel: 0203 680666

12998/LEY)

FOR SALE

1984 12 METRE LEYLAND TIGER

248 Plaxton Paramount 3500 bodywork, 49 reclining seats, fitted with Telma retarder, cherished number plates. Sutrak air conditioning, toilet, video, drinks machine, first class condition. ARMCHAIR PASSENGER TRANSPORT.

Tel: 081 568 8227

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2 LEYLAND NATIONALS. 1974, MoT May 1991, 44 seats£3,000 each

LEYLAND NATIONAL. 1978, MoT June 1991, 49 seats£4,000

All running stage services

WILLIAM STOKES & SON

Telephone: 0555 870344

1987 D DUPLE 425 CUMMINS/ZF

Auto new gearbox, 44 seats with trays, servery, fridge, sunken toilet, wired for video and 3 monitors. MoT 4/91.

£55,000

1983 Y LEYLAND TIGER/PLAXTON 3500

50 recliners, continental door. MoT 2/91.

£28,000

1983 Y LEYLAND TIGER/PLAXTON 3500

48 recliners, continental door, sunken toilet (2 available, MoTs 11/90, 12/90).

£30,000

1983 Y LEYLAND TIGER/PLAXTON 3200

48 seats, floor level toilet, Express doors. MoT 1/91.

£25,000

1983 Y LEYLAND TIGER/DOMINANT IV

53 seats, Express doors (2 available). MoTs 2/91.

£24,000

All Tigers with semi automatic gearboxes.

No reasonable offer refused (our definition!)

Telephone for further details or to arrange viewing.

Daytime 0202 537568 Mornings or evenings 0929 554588 24hrs 0836 343833

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Due to successfully acquiring extensive Stage Carriage routes and reorganisation, we are replacing a number of our Leyland fleet with Midibuses.

Choice of 18 Double Deckers 4 only to be sold.

Choice of 20 Dual Purpose Leyland Leopards - Plaxton Duple - 4 only to be sold.

Choice of 6 Plaxton Supremes Viewmaster/ Leyland luxury coaches (1979-1982) in quite exceptional condition (one owner) - 3 only to be sold to be replaced with **Executive Coaches in April.**

All the above are in daily use with most MoTs to 1991

'D' Coaches Swansea (0792) 791981

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48 upholstered dual purpose seats, MoT May '91.

£3.150 + VAT

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1978/79/80

LEYLAND NATIONALS MARKI

Dual doors, well maintained, single decker buses.

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1986 LEYLAND **TIGER CUB**

Optare, 33 seater bus, 4 speed, manual gearbox, new MoT

£10,950 + VAT ono

Tel. 091 389 0494 day or 091 388 5475 evenings

(13612/LEY)

LEYLAND LEOPARD FOR SALE

Semi auto services buses.

£3.000

Leopard coach

£4,000

All with tax, test and in daily service.

Many more Leopards for sale. For full list, contact Mike or Jim.

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1982 X REG

LEYLAND TIGER

218

Semi-auto gearbox, Plaxton

Supreme VI express, 57 seats, MoT Feb '91, radio, pa,

cassette, power door, blue

and maroon, mustard

moquette, Bristol dome.

£24,000 + VAT ono

Tel. 0734 713257

processes and a second

1985 LEYLAND

Plaxton Paramount 3500, 49

toilet, radio and drinks

machine, MoT to 3/91.

EXCELLENT CONDITION.

£55,000 each + VAT

John Fishwick &

Sons

(0772) 421207

Due to replacements we have

the following for sale:

1983 12 MTR

LEYLAND TIGER

Plaxton Paramount 3500

bodywork, 50 reclining seats,

fitted with air conditioning,

Telma retarder, cherished

number plate, in first class

condition, fitted with latest

Level 6 Series TL11 engine

and latest Rockwell back axle.

ARMCHAIR PASSENGER

TRANSPORT

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(13643/LE)

Ours from new. Choice of two.

reclining seats + courier, seat,

(13697/LEY)

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LEYLAND LEOPARD PLAXTON

MARK IV FRONT

53 seats, MoT April 1991, very clean.

£8.500 + VAT

STAFFORDIAN TRAVEL LTD. STAFFORD

0785 211433

1981 LEYLAND LEOPARD, 57 seater, Plaxton Supreme, COF to Aug 1991, seats recovered, power door, radio, £17,500 + VAT. Tel. (0371) 872644

1979 LEYLAND LEOPARD DUPLE

48 recliners, toilet, hot drinks, servery, TV/video, radio, PA, cassette, curtains, carpet, PP, excellent condition, MoT May '91, taxed.

Consider exchange heavyweight, 53/57 seater

Tel. (0234) 60327

(12849/LE)

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LTD LEYLAND LEOPARD

Duple Dominant II body, 57 seats, MoT September 1991, painted white.

£10,850 + VAT **Telephone: Peter Levett**

0702 355724

(13813/DD)

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MAN SR280 HIGHLINER. Full executive. £36,000 + VAT. Will take older heavyweight as part exchange. Tel. (0388) 774004. (13639)

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21 seater, very good condition, taxed/tested, Bristol dome, repainted in white with red stripe, new tyres.

Maintained to a very high standard.

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NEOPLAN SKYLINERS

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Mike or Dave Trathen or **Roy Anderson**

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MCW METRO-RIDER COACH

28 seats + courier. First registered April 1990. All usual refinements including very large boot. Change in business direction forces sale.

£34,950 + VAT (£12,000 saving on new price)

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SCANIA BERKHOFF K112

CAG gearbox, 76 seats plus 2 courier seats, 1986, toilet, fridge, hot and cold water, double glazed, low mileage, vehicle owned from new, excellent condition throughout.

£75.000

Ask for Colin or Roy Ebdon

Tel. 081 302 2908

(12925/SC)

(13712/LEY)

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1986 SCANIA CITY BUS. Low step, Webasto, underfloor luggage. 47 seating, 22 standing, MoT March 1991. £48,000 ono. Tel: 0789 764401. 1982 B10M VAN HOOL ALIZEE, 1983 DUPLE CARIBBEAN both with tolet, not drinks, wired for Video. £40,000 each + VAT. Tel. 0286 5175 or 0286 77858. (13649/VO)

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1988 SETRAS

215 HD, 42/49 seats with full JLD galley and Pullman. Tables, if required, hot oven, 240v micro, TV, etc. Superb all round condition. Probably the smartest Setras in the UK. Executive contract loss forces sale.

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(13817/SA)

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- 1983 DAF/Plaxton 3500 51 recliners, side lockers, radio/PA, heaters.
- 1985 Neoplan Skyliner 77 seats, full decker fitments, above average condition for year.
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- 1987 DAF/Caetano 11.6 turbo engine, 53 recliners, radio P/A, courier seat, continental door.
- 1988 DAF/Duple 340 53 recliners, TV/Video, radio/PA, toilet, drinks, courier seat, continental door.
- 1988 Leyland Tiger Jonckheere P90 48 recliners, TV/Video, radio P/A, driver's bunk, Telma, Webasto, courier seat, drinks, double glazed, air conditioning.
- 1989 Setra S 215 HRI (Rational) 49/53 recliners, demountable toilet, TV/Video, Webasto, radio/PA, courier seat, central locking, COF expires May 1991, white exterior, beige background with yellow/orange stripe. Choice of three. One sold.

Year of registration does not denote year of manufacture. Finance facilities available subject to status.

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VOLVO B58 PLAXTON VIEWMASTER MARK IV

Private plates, MoT February 1991, good condition throughout.

Telephone: 0222 471614

(12955/VO)

1986 VOLVO B10MT PLAXTON 4000RS

67 reclining seats, toilet, double glazed, fridge, Klix drinks dispenser, TV/video, full draw curtains and blinds, carpeted. Telma retarder, reconditioned engine fitted, 12 months MoT, immaculate condition.

£69,950 + VAT ono

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TRAVEL,
BIRMINGHAM on
021 554 5232
and contact
GEOFF FLIGHT



(12894/VO)

1986 (D REG) VOLVO B10M VAN HOOL S/H, TRI-AXLE SINGLE DECK



200 gallon tank, speed limiter, driver's bunk, 49 reclining seats, courier seat, driver's bunk, toilet, drinks dispenser, curtains, wired for TV/video, MoT April 1991. Ideal for carrying extra weight on shopping trips/shuttles. Excellent all round long haul coach.

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(12856/VO)

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£13.500 + VAT.

VOLVO

££

££

££

COACH RENTAL ON OLDER VEHICLES 25p PER KM SCOTLAND ONLY

1979 BEDFORD YMT Duple Dom I, 53 seats, manual door, unlettered, MoT January 1991, radio, very nice inside and out.....

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1983 VOLVO B10M Plaxton 3200, 53 seats, MoT April '91, power door, radio, PA, re-panelled and

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ff

1979 VOLVO B50

Semi-automatic, 48 reclining seats, toilet, fridge, water boiler, courier seat, carpet, Telma, power door, radio, public address, private plate, MoT until 6 Dec 1990.

£19,500 + VAT
Tel. 0248 750304

X REG, B58 DOMINANT IV

Air overleaf suspension, Telmar, power door, tinted double glazed, 53 E type seats, recent retrim, curtains, radio P/A, MoT June 1991.

£21,000 or very near offer 051-226 1189

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APRIL 1989 VOLVO B10M

MARK III PLAXTON

Paramount 3500 (new model). In excellent condition, 49/53 reclining seats, centre demountable toilet, continental door, aircraft style lockers, Some summer and winter work with vehicle if required.

£79,000 VAT

Selwyns Travel Ltd, Runcorn, Cheshire

Telephone: 0928 564515 (13513/VO)

CONTROL CONTRO

1980 VOLVO

B58 ALPHA

53 seats, Telma, tinted

windows, radio cassette,

MoT March '91.

£18,000 ono

+ VAT

Photo available

Tel. (0203)

392655 or (0203)

381686

1989 VOLVO B10M GL PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 4 STAR 3500

39 (plus 4 tables)/53 seat executive, toilet, drinks dispenser, video, air conditioning, ice warning device, alarm, only 50,000 kilometers, pristine condition.

£85,000 + VATTelephone Ewen Mackenzie on 0723 581500

(12988/VO)

1975 VOLVO R58, 50 seats + courier. MoT to Sept '91, 8 speed gearbox, Webasto, full soft trim, toilet, wired for coffee machine & fridge, very good condition, £7,000 ono + VAT. Tel. (0661) 34534.

1984 VOLVO PLAXTON

Paramount 3500. Executive specification, taxed 1 year and tested 6 months.

£46,000

Telephone (0287)51373

1985 VOLVO B10M CAETANO

Low driver, 53 recliners, tinted windows, curtains, courier seat, radio cassette, MoT Oct '90.

> £50,000 ono + VAT

Photo available

Tel. (0602) 254938

1985 **VOLVO B10M**

CAETANO Low driver, 53 recliners, tinted windows, curtains, courier seat,

radio cassette, MoT October 1990. £45,000 ono + VAT

Photo available Tel: 0203 381686 or 0203 392655

(12862/VO)

1980 VOLVO B58 PLAXTON SUPREME, semi auto, 48 seater exec. rear toilet, drinks machine, wired for TV/video, recon gearbox and fluid flu wheel fitted this year. Private plate, MoT March 1991.

1977 VOLVO B58 PLAXTON SUPREME, 57 seater, recon engine, new ZF gearbox and steering box, centre floor and retrim last year. MoT May 1991.

Tel: 081 845 6979 daytime 081 845 4243 nights

(12865/VO)

1975 B58 PLAXTON 12 METRE 53 SEATER

- ★ Speed limiter ★ Fridge ★ Boiler ★ Full draw curtains ★ Wheel trims
 - ★ Bristol dome
 - ★ VG moguette

★ Test to 29/3/91. £9.750 + VAT ono

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(12374/VO)

1988 VOLVO B10M PLAXTON 3500. 1988 VOLVO B10M PLAXTON 3500, Executive, toilet, drinks machine, bunk. £73,500 ono. 1984 B10M PLAXTON 3500, video, Telma, toilet, Webasto, double glazing. £50,000 ono. Daisy Bus Service (Ermine International), Brigg 0652 52481 ask for Nigel.

1979 VOLVO B58 **DOMINANT II**

57 seats, radio, PA, curtains, side lockers, tinted windows, ZF gearbox, Bristol dome, Telma, very good condition.

£15.500 ono + VAT Tel. (0742) 421327

(13807/VO)

VOLVO B58 PLAXTON SUPREME

V reg, 53 seater, clean motor, long MoT.

£19,000 + VAT Tel. Tony Bedale on (0922) 23375

(13708/VO)

VOLVO B58 VAN HOOL

50 recliners. test till Feb 1991

£14,500 + VAT ono Tel. 0723 375229

(12876/VO)

(13670/VO)

VAN HOOL

DAF MB200 **DKFL VAN HOOL ALIZEE**

1983 (private plate), 49 recliners, toilet, video, coffee machine, cool box, driver's bunk, Continental door, MoT until April 1991.

£35,000 + VAT WHARFEDALE COACHES

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(13662/VH)

MOT UNTIL MARCH 1991

VAN HOOL ALIZEE

Engine rebuilt, new gearbox, new oil tank and much more. Re-seated, coffee machine, video, TV, pa, radio, rear toilet, continental door, recliners.

£28,000 + VAT

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1988, only 113,000 miles with one driver on private hirework only. This must be the best available. It is as new.

49/53 reclining seats, full spec, toilet, 2 TV/video, hot drinks, fridge, bunk, double glazing, Telma, Webasto, polished alloy wheels, test to March 1991, 13-17 mpg, 100 gallon fuel tank. Must sell - new vehicle arrived.

£73.500 NO OFFERS

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(13707/VH)





SOUTHEND TRANSPORT LTD **VAN HOOL**

1985 C reg, Astromega double deck coach, 84 seats, Mercedes engine. Telephone: Peter Levett

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(13812/DD)

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doors, current PSV, registered 1986/87/88/89 from £9,250 + VAT
Sherpa 20 seat, Corlyle body, dual-purpose seats, parcel racks,
registered 1989, as new, £18,250 + VAT.
Iveco Ford 49/10 Automatic 25 + 7 First reg. March/April '89.
Choice of 3. £17,250 + VAT. Plus 'D' reg 25 + 5 £12,750 + VAT.
Pausand/Talbat-Triayle 1988 3/1 Dual surpose seats.

Contact Andy Greenway

Peugeot/Talbot Triaxie 1988 20 Dual purpose seats + 2 standees. Full PSV £10,350 + VAT.



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52 recliners and courier, full draw curtains, radio cassette, PA etc. Very good condition. Tested to May '91.

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IVECO

12 high back seats, tacho tested until August 1991, taxed October 1991.

£3.000

or exchange or 19-25 seater/trade in

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1988 IVECO 49/10 **TURBO**

25 + 6 standees, stage carriage specification, MoT Feb 1991, very clean vehicle.

£15,000 + VAT

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MERCEDES 508D PSV, V Reg 1980

16/20 removable seats on wheelchair tracking, with or without tail lift. Ambulance exemption certificate, elderly but amazing. Clean condition, utterly reliable and just plated. Bargain first

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1990 MODEL AT **1986 PRICE**

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16 seat, new, unregistered, 16 high back seats, soft trim, additional heater, body insulation etc, 1 only.

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Bristol LHS, choice of 3, 1980 and 1981 registrations, 35 and 31 seaters.

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DOUBLE DECKERS

ROUTEMASTER DOUBLE DECK BUSES

Original number plates, tidy condition, PSV and Class 5.

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Lowbridge, 80 seats, D registered.

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FORD TRANSIT, diesel, 15 seats, luxury.

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1983 MAN RIVIERA, 28 seats, power door, full luxury.

1988 (Nov) FORD TRANSIT 190 Diesel, 16 seats, plus power door, low mileage, immaculate.

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(12371)

SCOTT of Bellshill Ltd

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NEWS ONLY
86p PER WEEK

T REG TRANSIT, MoT to June 1991, petrol, 12 seater, radio, make idea school bus, extremely reliable. £1,000 + VAT. Tel. 0705 812882 or 829992 or 372343.

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Only two left – Pullman 22 + 7 standees. FROM £14,500 + VAT

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PETROL 12 + 14 SEATERS

DIESELS 12 SEATERS - IN BUILD

£4,950 £4,650 1986 MERCEDES 307D (12), h/b seats + tables, soft trim... 1987 TRANSIT DIESEL DI (12), h/b seats + tables, soft trim... B REG IVECO DAILY (11 + TABLES), h/b seats, r/boot.......

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NEW STOCK

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709 MERCEDES. PMT. Full width coach seats, power door glider, large boot + standees. Stock.

609 VAN CONVERSION, 19 seats, electric door and boot, one week.

308 MERCEDES, 14 seats, high roof, side loading door.

308 MERCEDES, 12 seat, one week.

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1987 FORD TRANSIT 2.5DI, Mellor Special Edition, 16 luxury h/b seats, in-swing door.

1987 FORD TRANSIT Diesel, 12 seat, non PSV.

1987 FORD TRANSIT Diesel, 12 seat crew bus.

1986 MERC 608, 25 coach seats.

STAGE CARRIAGE

1979 BRISTOL ECW, 27 seats.

1988 MERCEDES 609, 20 seats plus standees.

(5436/MB/)

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- Dormobile body
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MoT, substantial savings on new£12,500
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MoT£5,250
1983 Tiger 245 Paramount 3200, 53, express, vgc, MoT£28,500
1983 Tiger 245 Paramount 3200 Exec, vgc, MoT '91£29,000
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MoT
1982 Leopards, S/A, ECW, long MoTs, nice condition£11,750
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1975/6/7 LEYLAND LEOPARD, S/A, PLAXTON SUPREME, power door,
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P/X considered, finance available at very competitive rates, existing HP settled (subject to status).

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1982 MERCEDES 19-Seater Minibus 508D, very clean and in good condition, 1 year's MoT. **£7,750**.

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Coachbuilt, Riviera body, power door, forced air, reading lights, 6 cylinder engine, genuine 75,000 kms from new, one owner.

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£25,000 ono + VAT 0437 710337 South Wales

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Northern Counties body, 77 seats, single door, power steering, pistons and liners fitted, MoT June 1991 £3,000.

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PLAXTON EXPRESS

53 seats, diner, Kaisor blinds, <mark>many</mark> extras, MoT April 1991 **£17,000**

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Has available for outright purchase, lease or rental, the following returned vehicles at very attractive prices.

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1988 SCANIA K112 PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3500, 51 reclining seats, toilet, TV, video, driver's bunk, drinks, MoT Feb '91, only one left £79,850

1987 VOLVO B10M GL PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3208, 53 reclining seats, power door, MoT June '91, choice of two......£64,850

1987 VOLVO B10MGL IKARUS 358 BLUE DANUBE, 51 reclining seats, continental door, MoT Oct '90, choice of two£55,000

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FOR MORE DETAILS

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1976 VOLVO Ailsas, Alexandra body, 79 seats, single door, power steering, turbo engine.

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1972 LEYLAND ATLANTEAN, 680 engine, Alexandra body, choice of 1. Cheap to clear.

1979 BEDFORD YMT PLAXTON, Supreme IV, tested Feb '91, 53 seats, power door.

1973 DAIMLER FLEETLINE, 150 Gardner engine, dual door, test October, cheap to clear.

1973 LEYLAND NATIONAL, 10.3mtr, single door, test March 1991.

1974 LEYLAND NATIONAL, 11mtr, test Oct 1990. 1972 BRISTOL RE, ECW body, Leyland 680 engine. ARRIVING SHORTLY – Leyland Nationals and Bristol LH. All tested.

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1968 BRISTOL RE, Gardner engine, ECW coach body, reg no LDV 467F. ROUTE MASTER plus some RT spares.

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(13710/UN)

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MOORDALE COACHES

(Proudmutual Group)

1 1976 BEDFORD YMT PLAXTON SUPREME, 53 coach seats, MoT November 1990, £3,000

1977 BEDFORD YMT PLAXTON SUPREME, 53 coach seats, MoT April 1991, £4,500

2 1977 BEDFORD YLQ PLAXTON SUPREME, Exp 45 coach seats, MoT January-February 1991, £4,500 each

1 1977 LEYLAND LEOPARD DUPLE DOMINANT, Exp 53 coach seats, MoT October 1990, £6,000

4 1977 LEYLAND LEOPARD DUPLE pominant, Exp (1) 49 coach seats, (3) 49 service seats, MoT August/September 1991, £7,000 each

3 1985 BEDFORD YNV 500 TURBO DUPLE LAZERS, 57 coach seats, MoT February-March-April 1991, £26,000 each

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A SELECTION OF USED COACHES FROM **OUR WELL MAINTAINED FLEET:**

1984 VOLVO B10M VAN HOOL. 48-50 seats, demountable servery, double glazed, blinds, rubber floor, Webasto, bunk, Surelax seats, video, rear toilet, owned from new, low mileage, super condition. £52,500 ono.

1980 FORD R1114. 53 seats, Duple Dominant, auto lub, power door, autumn tint interior, Bristol Dome, side lockers, choice of two. Excellent condition. £9,000 ono.

1980 VOLVO B58 AIR OVERLEAF. 57 seater Plaxton, power door, auto lub, Telma, side lockers. Excellent condition. £22,500 ono

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1983 DAF MB200 DKTL 53 reclining seats, radio/pa, power door, £34,950

1979 AEC 760 PLAXTON 51 reclining seats, new test, £12,950

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Consider 16 or 21 seater in part exchange

The above maintained to our usual high standard but are surplus to current requirements

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(13677/UN)

1976 PJK, 29 STR DUPLE RECON, 5 1976 PJR, 29 SIR DUPLE RECON, o speed box, cyl head, good condition, MoT April. £3,850. 1985 C TRANSIT DORMOBILE, 16 STR, white, unlettered, 21,000 miles only, as new. £6,000. Tel: 0237 441 233. (12928/UN)

PR WADDON & SONS International TEL. (0222) 884648 or 884649

DUPLE 340, 1986 D REG DAF MB230

53 recliners, sunken toilet, video, coffee machine, washroom, driver's bunk, burglar alarm, 1 driver since new, new MoT......£55,000

DI AVTONIANE DAE MORGO	12 to 57 seaters
PLAXTON MK5 DAF MB200 57 seats, 1983 Y Reg, owned by us since new, excellent condition	£26,000
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PLAXTON LEOPARD 1976, 680 SEMI AUTO 57 seats, A Reg, Plate Paramount back and front, £9,000 spent on this vehicle, new MoT	£10,500
PLAXTON LEOPARD 680 MK4 1979 T REG 57 seats, matching moquette to centre roof, excellent condition	£16,500
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IVECO DAILY 14 SEATER LUXURY COACH 1985

New MoT..... HIRE PURCHASE TERMS OR LEASING AVAILABLE **DOUBLE DECKER WANTED FOR CASH - ALSO 25 SEATER**

Part exchange considered on the above vehicles

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Buses/Coaches and Double Deckers for any event. PSV-PLG Football Clubs, Majorettes etc. etc.
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53 seater, repanelled, new floor, retrimmed, Express doors, Bristol dome, MkIV front, repainted in stock cream, MoT till end Jan '91.

£17,950 + VAT

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16 seater, MoT, taxed, high roof, coach seats, full soft trim. Offers around £7,000 + VAT

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P/X welcome. Many other vehicles available. Finance from 5% subject to status.

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Any condition, any type, any quantity, anywhere!!! From a Minibus to a Mega Decka. We pay a better cash price on collection. Tenders welcomed at all times.

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Please remember we won't waste your time or ours with a silly offer - ring us last for top offer.

Also available - many spares for most types bodies and chassis, wide range avail, incl engines, glass, seats, tyres etc.
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(13699/UN)

1986 DAF MB200 DKFL LAG GAL-AXY, 53 reclining seats and cour-ier, MoT January 1991, tax Decem-1990, TV/video, coffee machine, demountable toilet, negotiable extras, bargain price £46,000

1984 VOLVO B10M DUPLE CARIBBEAN, 49 reclining seats and courier, full exec with ferry lift, January 1991, bargain £38,000 + VAT price ..

1982 BEDFORD YNT PLAXTON SUPREME VI, 53 new seats and interior trim, new engine fitted 18 months, taxed January 1991, MoT February 1991 £14,000 + VAT

1981 BEDFORD YNT PLAXTON SUPREME VI, registration number TRY 6X, 42 reclining seats, WC and servery, MoT November 1990, non runner, needs engine, hence price£6,800 + VAT

1975 BEDFORD YRQ PLAXTON PANORAMA ELITE III, 45 seats, MoT November 1990£1,500 + VAT

Tel. (0480) 62329

(12824/UN)

BLYTHSWOOD MOTORS LTD

1175 ARGYLE STREET, **GLASGOW**

All Mercedes 2 years warranty or 200,000 kilometres

NEW MERCEDES 814D, 33 lux, power swivel door, large boot, full spec, in stock.

MERCEDES 814D, 33, armrests, Man door, stock.

NEW MERCEDES \$11, 33 + 6, manual or auto. NEW MERCEDES \$11, 29 coach spec, 7 days. NEW MERCEDES 709, m or auto, 25 + 10 standees.

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NEW MERCEDES 609D, 26 seats, large boot, stock. NEW MERCEDES 609D, 24 coach seats, power door. NEW TRANSIT 20, power door, power steering, air

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5-speed, choice coach or service seats, stock NEW DAF 400, 16 PSV, UF, tail lift, stock. NEW DAF 400, diesel, 16 PSV, hib spec, stock NEW TALBOT 12, PSV, diesel, 5-speed, stock.

NEW TALBOT 14, wheelchair ramp, diesel, 2 weeks NEW MERCEDES 709D, 27 + uf w/chair lift, 2 weeks. NEW MERCEDES 508, 18 seats or 4 w/chairs and lift. NEW MERCEDES 308, high roof, 12 and 14 seats, stock. NEW MERCEDES 408, luxury, 15 and 16 seats, stock.

NEW MERCEDES 410, 16 coach seats, 4 weeks.

ALL OPEN TO REASONABLE OFFERS

90 MERCEDES 609, power door, 24 coach seats. 89 MERCEDES 609, power door, 24 coach spec. 89 G TRANSIT, 14 PSV, low mileage 89 G TRANSIT 16, power door, coach spec. 88 SHERPA, 16 seats, dieset, low mileage.

88 MERCEDES 567, 16 PSV coach seats, £14,500. 88 VW OPTARE, 21 seat coach, spec, low mileage, new test. £20,000.

88 TOYOTA OPTIMO, 19 seat, low mileage. £22,000. 86 MERCEDES, 25 power door, coach seats, 19,000. 88 TALBOT, 14 PSV diesel, high back, 10,500. 88 FREIGHT ROYER, PSV diesel, 16 coach seats. 88 TRANSIT DIESEL, 14 high back PSV. 88 (F) TRANSIT, 16 coach seats, power door

88 TRANSIT, 20 + standees, service seats 87 TALBOT 12, diesel, 5 speed 87 E MERCEDES 811 TURBO, 27 coach seats. 86 OPTARE CUB, auto, 33 power door + standees. 86 D TRANSIT DIESEL, 12, PSV, new shape.

86 BEDFORD MIDI, 15 seat, petrol, low mileage. 86 DATSUN DIESEL, crew bus, high roof, low 86 IVECO CAETANO, 24, air door, tested.

85 TALBOT 12, PSV, petrol. 85 SHERPA 16, diesel, requires testing, cheap. 84 DAF JONCKHEERE MB200, exec, 49+ video. 84 VAN HOOL ASTRON, 60 seats, full spec. 84 MERCEDES, 12, PSV, high roof. 48 B TRANSIT DIESEL, 15 seats, non PSV.
83 TRANSIT, 16, petrol, high back, PSV, £1,500.
83 YOLVO BERKHOF EXEC, full spec, new test.
83 DODGE REEBUR, diesel, auto, PSV, 17 seats.

B3 LEYLAND CUB, 21 seats, power door B3 MERCEDES 508, 19 seats, boot, PSV. 82 TRANSIT 12, LWB, PSV, petrol, o/d

82 MERCEDES, 19, boot, tested. 82 MERCEDES 21, new test. 81 VOLVO VAN HOOL EXEC, TV, torlet. 81 VOLVO VAN HOUL EXEC, 1V, foliet.
81 DAF 2000 EXEC, 48 + TV, Alpha, new test.
81 VOLVO DUPLE II, 53 large seats.
81 PLAXTON DAF, integral, 52 recliners
80 W BEDFORD DUPLE II, 53 retrimmed seats

79 FORD DUPLE II, 35 seats, tested. 79 BEDFORD PLAXTON, 53, tested.

78 FORD PLAXTON, 53, new test. 76 BRISTOL, 43, express doors, testing. 76 BEDFORD SPACE CAR, 49 recliners, no test. 75 BEDFORD, 29, no test, offers. 75 FORD, 45, seat, Plaxton, new test

75 VOLVO, 57 seats, Duple, 5-speed. 75 DAIMLER FLEETLINE DD, Gardner, 76 seats. 75 LEYLAND DUPLE, 53, S/A, tested WANTED FOR CASH - MINIBUSES & MIDIBUSES - ALL MAKES & SIZES.

IMMEDIATE HP SETTLEMENT. Tel 041 221 3165 or

041 639 6107 Eves OPEN 7 DAYS

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LEYLAND LEOPARD, semi-auto Plaxton body, 53 seats, 1st reg 1/3/77, MoT February 1991. Reg number SUR 198R.

CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR

LEOPARD, semi-auto, 51 seats, power door, 1st reg 30/5/73, MoT May 1991. Reg number PNY 633L.

BEDFORD YLQ, Duple body, 45 seats, power door, 1st reg 1/4/79, MoT February 1991. Reg number AUJ 739T.

BEDFORD YMT, Plaxton body, Grant doors, 53 seats, 1st reg 1/4/80, MoT March 1991. Reg number BVJ 780V.

All vehicles in daily use and in good order.

FOR APPOINTMENT TO VIEW

Telephone: 0685 840329

MAN SR280 1983

46 recliners, toilet, engine overhauled, long MoT, very nice condition.....£28,000 ono MAN SR280 1982

49 recliners, toilet, long MoT, requires attention......£18,000 ono

MAN SR280 1980

53 seats, engine rebuilt, taxed & MoT'd,

Good clean vehicle......£18,000 ono **VOLVO 1980**

45 seats, centre entrance door, long MoT,

Very smart condition......£19,000 ono

VAN HOOL TA15 1988

Executive, 49/53 seats, low mileage,

owned from new, excellent condition...... £75,000 ono

Assistance can be given with finance. Part exchange deals can be arranged.
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OFFERS FOR SALE

1978 FORD DOMINANT I, 53 seats, MoT Nov '90	£3,000
1974 FORD WILLOWBROOK, Service Bus, 49 seats, Mo '90	
1979 DENNIS DOMINATOR, Double Deck, 74 seats, Mo	T Nov

1978 FORD DOMINANT II, 53 seats, MoT Oct '90£3,500

1978 FORD DOMINANT II, 53 seats, MoT June '91£3.500

All vehicles subject to VAT

Please tel. Ilfracombe (0271) 863819

(13000/UN)

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1973 DAIMLER FLEETLINE, 75 seat double decker, tested to July 1991, refurbished in-terior, remoquetted, new floor, power doors, power steering, must be the clean-est example of its type in England. Must be

1978 LEYLAND LEOPARD DUPLE DOMINANT, semi-automatic, white exterior, blue interior, power door, radio/PA system, good, clean and tidy motor, reliable work-horse, tested until March 1991.

1983 B10M PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3200, 51 recliners, toilet, TV/video, Blaupunkt radio, cassette/PA, double glazing, conti-nental door, full draw curtains, either with 12 month ticket or as seen.

1986 VOLVO B10M GLT DUPLE 340, 53 recliners, toilet, TV/video, tea/coffee ma-chine, Telma, double glazing, tested until

All the above vehicles are well maintained and maintenance records are available for inspection.

NO REASONABLE OFFERS REFUSED

> WRAY'S of HARROGATE

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Have for disposal working and for immediate use due to new vehicles arriving, the following vehicles.

VOLVO B58 DUPLE, brand new engine just fitted, test applied for.....£22,500 £22,000

1980 BEDFORD DUPLE. seater£10,500 £9,500

1978 BEDFORD PLAXTON, 53 seater£6,500

1978 BEDFORD VAN HOOL, seater, 13 months MoT.....£6,500

1978 FORD PLAXTON, 53 seater£4,750 £2,750

1977 BEDFORD DUPLE, 53 seater£5,000 £3,750 1975 BEDFORD DUPLE, 45

seater£3,250 £2,000 1974 DUPLE, 53 seater £2,750

> All prices plus VAT, all tested and taxed. all round mechanically excellent.

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HAVE THE **FOLLOWING VEHICLES FOR** DISPOSAL

1972 (K) Metro Scania dual-door single deck bus, 40 seats, plus 22 standees. MoT July 1991. £3,000.

1981 (X) Ford R1014 service bus with Plaxton Bustler 47 bodywork with 12 standees. MoT July 1991. £6,500.

1983 (Y) Leyland Tiger 245, semi-automatic with Duple **Dominant 4 Express** bodywork, choice of three, one with new engine still under warranty, one with new gearbox, MoT March, May & July 1991. £29,000 each.

1983 (Y) Scania N112, Jonckheere P50 with 51 reclining seats, courier seat, TV/video, radio/tape/PA, drinks machine, toilet, curtains and driver's bunk, recent new engine, gearbox and splitter, MoT January 1991. £44,000.

1984 (A) Scania N112, Jonckheere P599 with 51 reclining seats, courier seat, TV/video, radio/tape/PA, drinks m/c, toilet, curtains and driver's bunk, MoT May 1991. £46.000

Interested parties should contact Dave Alexander at 081-953 8823

(12982)

1981 **DAFSB**

49 seats, Jonckheere Bermuda, usual refinements.

£27.000

Tel. 0325 353837/8

(13660/UN)

X Reg LEOPARD 680, 47

seats, armrests, recon gear box.

£18,500

or part exchange for A or B registered DAF Executive, cash difference.

BEDFORD 500, 53 seats, cherished plates, used daily.

£5,000

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Fleet Rationalisation

1990 VOLVO B10M PLAXTON 3500, 49 seat Executive £85,000

1990 VOLVO B10M PLAXTON 3500, 53 seat recliner£80,000

1989 SCANIA K92 VAN HOOL ALIZEE, 55 seat recliner £75,000

1988 SCANIA K112 PLAXTON 3500, 49 seat Executive, choice of 2£70,000

1987 SCANIA K112 PLAXTON 3500, 48 seat Executive £65,000

1986 SCANIA K112 PLAXTON 3200, low driver, recliner.....£50,000

1985 TIGER 245 PLAXTON 3500, 48 seat Executive, choice of 2.....£42,950

1984 DAF LAG GALAXY, 49 recliner with toilet/drinks....£30,000

Also 3 BEDFORDS - Ideal contracts - offers

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BRIAN JONES MD PARAMOUNT LEISURE LTD

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(12861/UN)

WEST DURHAM **COACH SALES**

1986 LEYLAND CUB, Optare bodied, MoT Sept '91, 33+8, general good condition.

1986 FREIGHT ROVER, 16 seat coach conversion. MoT March '91.

1989 LEYLAND DAF, 16 seat coach conversion, MoT Sept '91, low mileage, all round immac condition.

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for the best deals and the best advice

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FODEN 6 WHEEL RECOVERY TRUCK

Full air brake system 1966 approx, Q plate fitted 8 ton Harvey Frost lifting gear ready to work

£1,500 ono Tel (0563) 31818

APRIL 1988

DUPLE 425

Full spec, 53 recliners, toilet, coffee, fridge, carpeted aisle, double glazing, wired and boxed for TV, video, 160,000kms, one driver from new, arm rests, root rests, fully serviced, new rear tyres this week.

£72,500 + VAT ovno

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FOR SALE

PORTABLE STEEL BUILDING

SIZE 52ft x 20ft

Z Purlins, as new

£1.500

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Well Known and Well Organised

is looking for a co-operation with an English based coach company, in order to be

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BELGIAN COACH COMPANY

ready for 1992.

VOLVO B58

SENIOR PARTNER

condition. £32,500

RETIREMENT FORCES THE REGRETTABLE SALE OF THE

1984 (A) DAF MB200DKL (11.6 MID ENGINE), Duple Caribbean, 49 seats, rear sunken toilet, continental door, radio cassette and PA, wired for TV and

video, underfloor lockers, driver's bunk, double glazed, curtains. £37,500.

1981 (PRIVATE PLATE) VOLVO B10M VAN HOOL ALIZEE, 49 seat, centre sunken toilet, continental door, radio cassette and PA, TV and video underfloor lockers, driver's bunk, water

boiler, Telma, auto gearbox, exceptional

1979 (PRIVATE PLATE) VOLVO B58 DUPLE D0M11, 12 metre, 6 speed ZF, 53

seats, tinted windows, recliners, radio cassette and PA. £17,000.

TEL: TAUNTON COACHES

Days 0823 333534

Evenings 0823 257443

FOLLOWING VEHICLES.

Tested June '91, taxed, excellent condition.

BEDFORD YMT DOMINANT II

Tested August 1991, taxed, good clean reliable coach.

Further details tel. (0638) 715101

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LEYLAND NATIONALS
BODY PANELS £40.95
LONG EXHAUSTS £55.60
OIL PUMPS £25.55
POWER STEERING RAM £10.75
VARIOUS

WARIOUS
Bristol RE/VR brake shoes £2.75 EA.
RE/LH E C.W. body panels from £25
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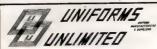
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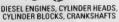
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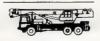
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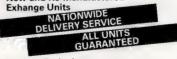








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Applications, in writing, should be addressed to:-Gordon Mills, Engineering Director, Grampian Transport, 395 King Street, Aberdeen AB9 1SP. (13809/SV)



ADVENTURE EXPRESS A CLEARWATER, FLORIDA, USA **BASED COMPANY. EST IN 1982**

The company has three American Highline coaches (3 axles) with under floor luggage, comfort, toilet and 47 seats.

1 European coach (Neoplan Cityliner) with 53 seats.

Three American citytype buses (2 axles), two passengers to a seat (52 seats) one with 44 seats.

All vehicles have air conditioning.

The company leases offices for \$1,000 monthly but sublets office space to an equal amount giving the company, in effect, rent free accommodation.

There is sufficient space in the yard for 18 coaches. The business caters to schools, cruise liners, private hire, hotels, sports venues, etc.

Turnover end of July 1990 \$223,297

Year end run rate \$382,796

1991 expected earnings of \$500,000

Charter operation \$245,000 including all assets

Contact Andre Hobson

Tel. 0101 813 462 9777



VIKING TOURS AND TRAVEL LTD. – COMMERCIAL MANAGER –

We require an additional person to join our management team working at our Burton-on-Trent offices.

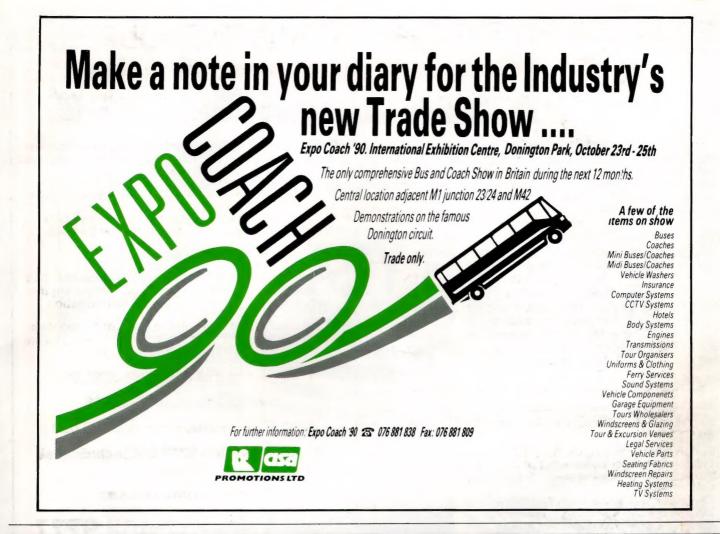
The successful applicant will have previous management or supervisory experience with a coach or tour operator. Duties will include customer relations, tachographs, route and tour planning, operations management and routing administration and sales.

Salary will be graded according to ability and experience but will be not less than £12,000 for the right candidate. Other benefits include BUPA and a company car.

For details contact: Richard Hackett

General Manager Viking Tours & Travel 2 Ryder Close, Swadlincote **Burton-on-Trent** DE11 9EU

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1988 LAG PANORAMIC, 'no extras machine', 49 seater, to full executive specification including additional fuel tank and Bosch alarm system.

1988 DAF SB2305 DHS CAETANO ALGARVE, 49/53 demountable toilet, 2 x TV, video, hot water boiler, courier seat, driver's bunk, carpets and curtains.

1988 VOLVO B10M CAETANO ALGARVE, 49/53 seats, centre toilet, tv & video, courier seat, double glazing and curtains.

1986 DAF SB3000 PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3500, 310 bhp, ABS, 4 * Plus, 49/53 seats, centre sunken toilet, tv/video, coffee machine, fridge, bunk and aircraft type rack lockers.

1986 LAG PANORAMIC 'no extras machine', 49 seater, full specification, touring coach.

1986 SETRA 215HD, 49 recliners, centre sunken toilet, Cont steps, powered Cont door, wired for water boiler, video equipment, fridge, radio PA & tape, carpet to saloon, centre aisle, curtains to side windows, finished in white with the usual 'Setra' extras.

1984 MERCEDES V8 NEOPLAN CLUBLINER, 59 seater, radio, PA, tape, 2 TV & video, 2 tables, curtains, blinds, tinted glass, Webasto, power door, Cont door, toilet, water heater, courier seat, coffee machine, kitchen, side lockers and soft trim. New MoT

1984 BOVA EUROPA MARK 3, 49 recliners, ZF reconditioned gearbox, new clutch, 265 bhp, toilet, TV/video equipment, Webasto, Nomad drinks machine, carpets, curtains, courier seat, radio/PA & tape and plug door, repainted in white.

1983 LEYLAND TIGER 245 Plaxton 3500, 48 recliners, semi-automatic gearbox, Eberspacher heater, radio/PA & tape, TV & video, carpets, curtains, tinted glass, power door, Cont door, toilet, water heater and soft trim.

1982 NEOPLAN CITYLINER MERCEDES V8, 49 seater, TV and video, coffee machine, driver's bunk, centre sunken toilet, curtains, new MoT.

1982 DAF PLAXTON SUPREME V, 47 seater, radio, PA, tape, TV/video, tinted glass, power door, toilet, water heater, courier seat, coffee machine and side lockers.

1980 DAF MB200 DKTL PLAXTON SUPREME IV, 57 reclining seats, radio, PA and tape system.



DURING OFFICE HOURS CONTACT: (0933) 440221 AFTER HOURS AND WEEKENDS CONTACT:

Malcolm J. Watkins (0568) 84637 or (0836) 349938, West, Wales, South West,

Midlands, North West Scotland.

John Dover (084421) 7994 or (0836) 280951, East, London, South East, North East Scotland.

VAUX ROAD, FINEDON ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WELLINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS NN8 4TG.



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- ·MB 230 mid engine with Alizee 'H' and Super High coachwork.
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- DHTD, rear engine with 320 SL Plus coachwork, 57 reclining seats, curtains, carpet or 53 reclining seats with rear toilet.
- DHS rear engine with 340 SL Plus coachwork, 57 reclining seats, centre continental door, curtains, carpet or 53 reclining seats with centre sunken demountable toilet.

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